

Job 39:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wilt thou trust him, because his strength is great? or wilt thou leave thy labour to him?

Analysis

"Wilt thou trust him, because his strength is great? or wilt thou leave thy labour to him?" The wild ox's great strength makes it seem perfect for labor, yet it remains unreliable for human purposes. The verb *batach* (בטח, "trust") highlights the issue—power without controllability isn't useful. This teaches that strength apart from submission to proper authority becomes dangerous or useless. Spiritually, this anticipates that human ability must be surrendered to divine purposes to become truly useful.

Historical Context

Ancient agriculture relied on domesticated oxen. The wild ox's strength without trainability illustrated that power requires proper channeling to serve productive purposes. This would remind readers that raw capability means nothing without submission to rightful authority and purpose.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does this verse challenge cultural worship of strength and power detached from rightful authority?
2. What personal strengths or gifts remain unproductive because they aren't surrendered to God's purposes?

Interlinear Text

הֲתִבְטַח	בּוֹ	כִּי	גָדוֹל	הוּא	וְתַעֲזֹב
Wilt thou trust	H0	H3588	is great	him because his strength	or wilt thou leave
H982			H7227	H3581	H5800
אֶל יְיָ	לַעֲמֹלְךָ:				
H413	thy labour				
	H3018				

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