

Job 39:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Because God hath deprived her of wisdom, neither hath he imparted to her understanding.

Analysis

"Because God hath deprived her of wisdom, neither hath he imparted to her understanding." God explicitly states He withheld wisdom from the ostrich—the Hebrew *hishah* (הִשָּׁח, "made her forget") indicates intentional deprivation. Yet the ostrich functions perfectly within its design. This teaches that God distributes gifts differently to each creature; lacking certain abilities doesn't indicate divine disfavor. Each design serves God's purposes. Comparing oneself to others' different giftings misunderstands divine wisdom in diversity.

Historical Context

The ostrich's behavior seemed foolish compared to other birds. God reveals this isn't accident but design. Ancient readers would learn that God's purposes don't require giving every creature (or person) the same gifts. Diversity in abilities serves the whole creation's purposes.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does this verse free you from envy over others' gifts you weren't given?
2. What abilities God withheld from you might actually perfect you for your specific calling?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	הֵשִׁיב ה'	אֵל וְה'	חֲכָמָה	וְלֹא	לִקְדָּה
H3588	hath deprived	Because God	her of wisdom	H3808	neither hath he imparted
	H5382	H433	H2451		H2505
לְ	בִּינָהּ:				
H0	to her understanding				
	H998				

Additional Cross-References

Job 35:11 (Parallel theme): Who teacheth us more than the beasts of the earth, and maketh us wiser than the fowls of heaven?