

Job 39:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

What time she lifteth up herself on high, she scorneth the horse and his rider.

Analysis

"What time she lifteth up herself on high, she scorneth the horse and his rider." When the ostrich runs, it "scorns" (sachaq, שָׂחַק, "laughs at/mocks") even horses and riders—it's the fastest bird on land. Though lacking wisdom, God gave it speed and strength. This demonstrates that God compensates for certain deficiencies with other extraordinary abilities. No creature has everything, but each has what it needs for its purpose. This encourages acceptance of one's unique combination of strengths and weaknesses.

Historical Context

Horses were the fastest transportation in ancient world. The ostrich's superior running speed would impress ancient observers. God designed each creature with specific excellences compensating for deficiencies. This would teach that divine wisdom distributes abilities purposefully, not randomly or unfairly.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How do your compensating strengths equip you perfectly for God's purposes despite deficiencies?
2. What would change if you stopped envying others' gifts and maximized what God gave you?

Interlinear Text

כָּ עֵת	בַּמָּר וּם	תִּמָּר יֵא	תִּשָּׁח ק	לִ ס וס	וּלְרִכְבּוֹ:
What time	herself on high	she lifteth up	she scorneth	the horse	and his rider
H6256	H4791	H4754	H7832	H5483	H7392

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