

Job 39:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hast thou given the horse strength? hast thou clothed his neck with thunder?

Analysis

God asks: 'Hast thou given the horse strength? hast thou clothed his neck with thunder?' The verb natan (נָתַן, given) means to give or bestow. Gevurah (גִּבְעָרָה, strength) denotes might or power. The phrase 'clothed his neck with thunder' (halvish tsavaro ra'mah, חַלְבִּישׁ צָבָרוּ רָמָה) poetically describes the horse's mane as thunderous—perhaps referring to sound of galloping or appearance of flowing mane. God's question highlights that He alone creates and endows creatures with abilities. Job cannot create or bestow attributes; he can only observe and admire divine craftsmanship.

Historical Context

Horses in ancient Near East were associated with warfare and royal power. Their strength and majesty impressed ancient peoples. God's question demonstrates that even magnificent creatures like warhorses—symbols of human military might—owe their attributes to divine creation. This humbles human pretensions to power and challenges Job to recognize that the God who creates horses with strength and majesty governs all with similar wisdom and care.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does contemplating God's creative power in animals lead to worship and humility?
2. What does the horse's God-given strength teach about recognizing divine sovereignty in all creation?

Interlinear Text

בָּתְהָתִת | בָּתְהָתִת | לֹט וָיְגַבְּרֵב הַמְלֵב יְשַׁבֵּב | בְּמַלְבֵּב יְשַׁבֵּב | צְאַר | צְאַר | בְּעַמְּהָה: בְּעַמְּהָה:

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H5414 H5483 H1369 H3847 H6677 H7483

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 147:10 (Parallel theme): He delighteth not in the strength of the horse: he taketh not pleasure in the legs of a man.

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