

Job 39:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Canst thou number the months that they fulfil? or knowest thou the time when they bring forth?

Analysis

"Canst thou number the months that they fulfil? or knowest thou the time when they bring forth?" God questions Job's knowledge of wild goats' gestation periods. The Hebrew male (אָתָה, "fulfill/complete") refers to pregnancy completing its term. This demonstrates God's intimate knowledge of creation's details—timing of births in remote wilderness. If Job doesn't know such specifics about animal reproduction, how can he comprehend God's governance of human history? This teaches that divine providence extends to the minutest details of creation.

Historical Context

Ancient peoples observed animal behavior but lacked scientific understanding of reproductive cycles. Wild mountain goats lived in inaccessible terrain, making observation difficult. God's comprehensive knowledge of hidden natural processes would humble Job and readers, highlighting the vast difference between divine omniscience and human ignorance.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does God's attention to wild animal gestation periods demonstrate His care for you?
2. What areas of life do you think God isn't watching closely enough, forgetting His comprehensive knowledge?

Interlinear Text

תִּסְפֶּר	רְגָלִים	תָּמִלְאָה	אַתָּה	תִּדְעָתָה	עַתָּה
Canst thou number	the months	that they fulfil	or knowest	thou the time	
H5608	H3391	H4390	H3045		H6256
לְדֹתְנָה:					
when they bring forth					
H3205					

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