

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 (אָלַף, "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

Psalms 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

תִּסְפֹּר	יָרַח יָמִים	תִּמְלֵךְ אֲנָהּ	אֵל יָדָא עֵתָא	עַתָּה
Canst thou number	the months	that they fulfil	or knowest	thou the time
H5608	H3391	H4390	H3045	H6256
לְדָתָנָהּ:				
when they bring forth				
H3205				