

Job 39:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Canst thou make him afraid as a grasshopper? the glory of his nostrils is terrible.

Analysis

"Canst thou make him afraid as a grasshopper? the glory of his nostrils is terrible." The war-horse's nostril-flaring and aggressive spirit inspire terror. The Hebrew nechir apo (נְחִיר אֶפְרַיִם, "snorting of his nostrils") suggests fearsome power. God designed some creatures for battle—not peaceful purposes. This demonstrates that strength, aggression, and even capacity for violence have legitimate places in God's design when properly directed. Not everything must be tame and gentle; righteous purposes sometimes require fierce strength.

Historical Context

War-horses were essential military assets in ancient warfare. Their strength, speed, and aggressive spirit decided battles. God designed these capabilities, teaching that power and martial prowess aren't inherently evil but serve righteous purposes when properly directed. This would encourage defenders of justice.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does this passage validate strength and assertiveness when directed toward righteous purposes?
2. What God-given fierce capacities in yourself need proper channeling rather than suppression?

Interlinear Text

אַיִלָּה: נִנְחָר וְנִנְחַר אֲרֵב הַיְד הַכָּרְבֵּן תְּרַעַמֵּשְׁנָה
is terrible of his nostrils the glory as a grasshopper make him afraid Canst thou
H367 H5170 H1935 H697 H7493

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 8:16 (Parallel theme): The snorting of his horses was heard from Dan: the whole land trembled at the sound of the neighing of his strong ones; for they are come, and have devoured the land, and all that is in it; the city, and those that dwell therein.

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