

Job 39:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

From thence she seeketh the prey, and her eyes behold afar off.

Analysis

From the eagle's secure dwelling, God describes its hunting prowess. 'From thence she seeketh the prey' (chaqar okel, חָקַר אֶכֶל) emphasizes searching or investigating for food from that elevated position. 'Her eyes behold afar off' (merchaq nabat, מֵרַחֵק נָבַט) describes the eagle's extraordinary visual acuity—ability to spot small prey from great heights. This verse connects security (previous verse) with provision—from its safe, high dwelling, the eagle can survey vast territory and identify sustenance. The theological parallel is profound: those established in God's security gain spiritual perception to identify and pursue what sustains life. The eagle's vision also metaphorically represents prophetic insight—seeing what others cannot perceive, discerning God's purposes from His perspective rather than earthly viewpoints. This connects to Habakkuk 2:1-2, where the prophet watches from his tower to receive God's revelation.

Historical Context

Ancient observers marveled at eagles' ability to spot prey from heights where the prey was invisible to human observers. This seemingly supernatural perception pointed to divine design. Eagles were associated with swiftness, power, and far-sightedness in ancient Near Eastern symbolism, making them appropriate metaphors for divine attributes.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does dwelling securely in God enhance your spiritual perception and ability to discern what truly sustains life?
2. What spiritual 'prey'—truth, wisdom, righteousness—can you seek more effectively from God's elevated perspective?
3. In what ways do you need God to sharpen your spiritual vision to see opportunities and dangers that others miss?

Interlinear Text

מִשָּׁם	תִּפְרַר	אֶ כָּל	לְ מִרְחֹק וְקֵי	עֵינֶי יוֹ	יִבְטֹחַ:
H8033	From thence she seeketh	the prey	afar off	and her eyes	behold
	H2658	H400	H7350	H5869	H5027

Additional Cross-References

Job 9:26 (Parallel theme): They are passed away as the swift ships: as the eagle that hasteth to the prey.