

Job 39:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whose house I have made the wilderness, and the barren land his dwellings.

Analysis

"Whose house I have made the wilderness, and the barren land his dwellings." God gave wild asses the desert as their habitat—the aravah (עֲרָבָה, "wilderness/desert") and melachah (מֵלָחָה, "salt land/barren ground"). What humans consider wasteland, God designed as perfect habitat for these creatures. This reveals divine purpose in every environment. Nothing is truly wasteland in God's design; each ecosystem serves His purposes. The verse challenges human-centered value judgments about creation.

Historical Context

Ancient peoples often viewed deserts as cursed or useless lands. God reveals these serve specific purposes—perfect habitats for certain creatures. This would expand understanding of divine wisdom and providence, showing God wastes nothing in His creation.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God's purposeful design of seemingly "barren" places encourage those in spiritual wilderness?
2. What environments or seasons in your life seemed wasteful but may have been God's perfect design?

Interlinear Text

בְּשָׁפְנָוֶת יְהוָה בֵּית וְשָׁמְתִי אֲשֶׁר
H834 I have made H7760 the wilderness H6160 Whose house H1004 land his dwellings H4908

מלֶתֶה:

and the barren

H4420

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 107:34 (Parallel theme): A fruitful land into barrenness, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein.

Job 24:5 (Parallel theme): Behold, as wild asses in the desert, go they forth to their work; rising betimes for a prey: the wilderness yieldeth food for them and for their children.

Jeremiah 17:6 (Parallel theme): For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.

Jeremiah 2:24 (Parallel theme): A wild ass used to the wilderness, that snuffeth up the wind at her pleasure; in her occasion who can turn her away? all they that seek her will not weary themselves; in her month they shall find her.

Deuteronomy 29:23 (Parallel theme): And that the whole land thereof is brimstone, and salt, and burning, that it is not sown, nor beareth, nor any grass

groweth therein, like the overthrow of Sodom, and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim, which the LORD overthrew in his anger, and in his wrath:

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