

Job 39:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Will the unicorn be willing to serve thee, or abide by thy crib?

Analysis

God questions: 'Will the unicorn be willing to serve thee, or abide by thy crib?' This wild ox (not mythical unicorn) cannot be domesticated for human service. God's point is that He governs creatures humans cannot control.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern agriculture attempted to domesticate various animals. The wild ox remained untamable, symbolizing powers beyond human mastery.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What 'wild oxen' in your life refuse domestication despite your efforts?
2. How does God's governance of untamable things speak to circumstances you can't control?

Interlinear Text

בָּאָתִי	תְּמַלֵּא	עֲבֹדָתְךָ	אָמַר	תְּהִיאָה	עַל	אֶבְוֹסֶבֶת
be willing	Will the unicorn	to serve	H518	thee or abide	H5921	by thy crib
H14	H7214	H5647		H3885		H18

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 23:22 (Parallel theme): God brought them out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn.

Deuteronomy 33:17 (Parallel theme): His glory is like the firstling of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns: with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth: and they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh.

Psalms 92:10 (Parallel theme): But my horn shalt thou exalt like the horn of an unicorn: I shall be anointed with fresh oil.

Isaiah 1:3 (Parallel theme): The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.

Psalms 22:21 (Parallel theme): Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns.