

The Lord Answers Job

Chapter Thirty-Nine

Job 38:39-41

“Can you hunt the prey for the lion, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, when they crouch in their dens or lie in wait in their thicket? Who provides for the raven its prey, when its young ones cry to God for help, and wander about for lack of food?”

The Animal Kingdom

- God is the **provider** for all of the animal kingdom (Matthew 6:26).
- “The **young lions** roar for their prey, seeking their food from God.”-**Psalm 104:21**
- Job probably hunted during his day either for protection or for food but he did not need to worry about providing for the lion or its cubs because God did.
- Man can only provide food to satisfy the appetites of his small world, meanwhile, God provides food for the whole world.

- “The animal world exists for partially unknown reasons, not merely to meet the needs of humankind. People cannot explain why animals live as they do. This is another mystery that only God understands fully.”-Constable, Thomas
- “Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps...Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds!”-**Psalm 148:7,10**
- God cares and provides for all of His creation because all things are under His dominion for His glory.

Job 39:1-4

“Do you know when the mountain goats give birth? Do you observe the calving of the does? Can you number the months that they fulfill, and do you know the time when they give birth, when they crouch, bring forth their offspring, and are delivered of their young? Their young ones become strong; they grow up in the open; they go out and do not return to them.”

The Mountain Goat

- God asks Job if he was there when **the mountain goats give birth?**
- “The high mountains are for the wild goats...”-**Psalm 104:18**
- Mountain goats can live in elevations of 13,000-14,000 feet but every time one of them gives birth God is there.
- God knows their months and cares for the young kids as they **grow and become strong.**
- Within minutes of giving birth the baby goat rises to its feet and is jumping from rock to rock because that is what it is designed to do.



Job 39:5-8

“Who has let the wild donkey go free? Who has loosed the bonds of the swift donkey, to whom I have given the arid plain for his home and the salt land for his dwelling place? He scorns the tumult of the city; he hears not the shouts of the driver. He ranges the mountains as his pasture, and he searches after every green thing.”

The Wild Donkey

- God asked Job, **Who has let the wild donkey go free?**
- Although the wild donkey seems untamed to man God is in complete control of His amazing creation.
- God set the donkey loose. He provides a home for him to live and He provides food for him to eat.
- “You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills; they give drink to every beast of the field; the **wild donkeys** quench their thirst.”-**Psalm 104:10-11**

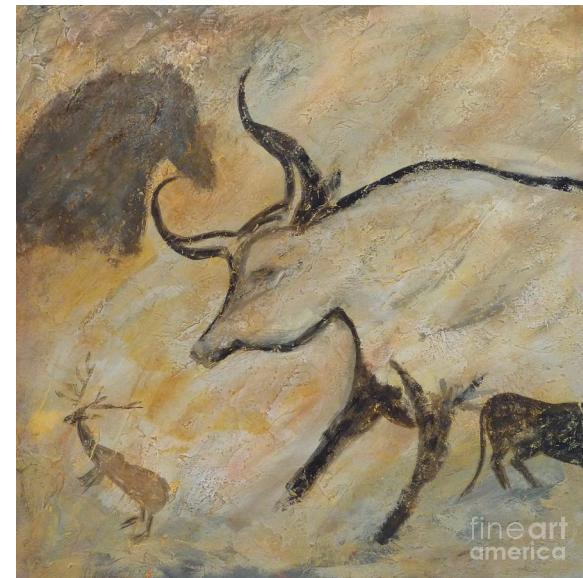
Job 39:9-12

“Is the wild ox willing to serve you? Will he spend the night at your manger? Can you bind him in the furrow with ropes, or will he harrow the valleys after you? Will you depend on him because his strength is great, and will you leave to him your labor? Do you have faith in him that he will return your grain and gather it to your threshing floor?”

The Wild Ox

- God asked Job, if the **wild ox** was willing to **serve** him?
- “Wild ox” is not a good translation nor is “unicorn” used in the King James Version.
- The Blue letter Bible says, “probably the great aurochs or wild bulls which are now extinct”.
- The aurochs were mighty beasts that stood almost as tall as an elephant with powerful bodies and formidable horns that would make a hunter use extreme caution.
- This would have been a terrifying powerful animal that Job would not have been able to **bind** with ropes nor tame for the purpose of farming.

- Man hunted the aurochs into extinction in the 17th century and our ancient ancestors respected them and represented them in their cave art.
- They stood 6-7 feet tall and weighed as much as 3500 lbs.
- The bull was a symbol of strength in the Old Testament and was worshipped by many of the cultures surrounding Israel.



Job 39:13-18

“The wings of the ostrich wave proudly, but are they the pinions and plumage of love? For she leaves her eggs to the earth and lets them be warmed on the ground, forgetting that a foot may crush them and that the wild beast may trample them. She deals cruelly with her young, as if they were not hers; though her labor be in vain, yet she has no fear, because God has made her forget wisdom and given her no share in understanding. When she rouses herself to flee, she laughs at the horse and his rider.”

The Ostrich

- The ostrich is a goofy and amusing animal created by God.
- The wings of the ostrich **wave proudly** but are useless for flight like other birds.
- “Even jackals offer the breast; they nurse their young, but the daughter of my people has become cruel, like the **ostriches** in the wilderness.”- Lamentations 4:3

- She buries her eggs in the dirt **forgetting** that a foot may crush them.
- She has **no fear** because **God has made her forget wisdom** reminding Job the wisdom originates with God.
- God made the stupid ostrich for His and Job's amusement and demonstrated to Job that even the foolish things are by His design.
- “It is what it is, a silly bird, because God made it so. Why? The comical account suggests that amid the profusion of creatures some were made to be useful to men, but some are there just for God’s entertainment and ours.”- Andersen, Francis

Job 39:19-25

“Do you give the horse his might? Do you clothe his neck with a mane? Do you make him leap like the locust? His majestic snorting is terrifying. He paws in the valley and exults in his strength; he goes out to meet the weapons. He laughs at fear and is not dismayed; he does not turn back from the sword. Upon him rattle the quiver, the flashing spear, and the javelin. With fierceness and rage he swallows the ground; he cannot stand still at the sound of the trumpet. When the trumpet sounds, he says ‘Aha!’ He smells the battle from afar, the thunder of the captains, and the shouting.”

The Horse

- The horse was up next for Job and God asked, **do you give the horse his might?**
- God gifted the horse with might and power.
- Job would have ridden a horse and used a bridle to set the direction of the horse but Job did not nor could not give the horse its might and power.
- “Can you make such an animal? Can you control him? Even the well-broken and best-trained mount might break from the restraints for the most skilled rider, so that even the one domesticated animal included in the list is not completely under the control of man.”-Andersen, Francis

Job 39:19-25

“Is it by your understanding that the hawk soars and spreads his wings toward the south? Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up and makes his nest on high? On the rock he dwells and makes his home, on the rocky crag and stronghold. From there he spies out the prey; his eyes behold it from far away. His young ones suck up blood, and where the slain are, there is he.”

The Hawk And The Eagle

- Job was questioned by God about the hawk and the eagle and if he had **understanding** to how the hawk soars or was it by Job's **command** the eagle flies **towards the south**.
- Job could not explain nor create the mechanics of flight that God designed for the hawk and the eagle.
- “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have **dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’”-**Genesis 1:26**

- Man is created to have dominion over the animal kingdom that God has created and designed but in a fallen world subjected to sin man attempts to have dominion over God which is core of deception.
- “Heaping oppression upon oppression, and **deceit upon deceit, they refuse to know me**, declares the LORD.”- **Jeremiah 9:6**
- God’s has been pointing out to Job that if man has so little understanding over the natural order then how could Job assume to have more knowledge about the trials and afflictions that were happening to him than God.

- “God's point in asking Job to consider each of these animals was this. Even upon careful examination, there are many things about their individual characteristics, behavior, purpose, and life that **people simply cannot explain**. That is still true today. For reasons unknown to Job, God allowed each animal to experience what was His will for that species. Similarly, He permits every human being to experience what he or she undergoes for reasons partially unknown to us. Only Yahweh is powerful enough and wise enough to do this.”-Constable, Thomas
- God in His grace was teaching Job about Himself, and in turn, Job was beginning to understand something about himself as well.
- Job answered God, “Behold, I am of **small account**; what shall I answer you? I lay my hand on my mouth.-**Job 40:4**