

In Job 39, God continues to answer Job out of the whirlwind, not with explanations for suffering, but with questions. These questions highlight the depth of human ignorance compared to God's wisdom. The focus shifts to the animal kingdom—wild goats, deer, ostriches, horses, hawks, and eagles—to show how God governs the world in ways that transcend human understanding.

Verses 1–4: Wild Goats and Deer – Birth Without Human Help

"Do you know the time when the wild goats of the rock bring forth? Or can you mark when the deer calve?" (Job 39:1, NKJV)

God begins by pointing to wild animals giving birth in remote places, out of sight and out of reach. These animals are not domesticated; no shepherd assists them, and no human midwife is present. Yet, birth takes place with precision and instinct. The Creator knows the timing, the process, and the outcome.

Application:

There is much in life that we do not control—and yet, it continues according to a rhythm that is not ours. In moments when we feel the need to manage or understand everything, we are reminded here that God oversees even the wild and unseen. Just because we cannot trace God's hand does not mean His hand is absent.

Verses 5–12: The Wild Donkey and Ox – Created for Freedom and Power

"Who set the wild donkey free? Or who loosed the bonds of the onager¹... Will the wild ox be willing to serve you? Will he bed by your manger?" (Job 39:5, 9)

The wild donkey and the wild ox serve as pictures of strength and freedom beyond human control. Though humans attempt to tame and domesticate, some creatures simply will not yield. Their wildness is not chaos—it is God-designed independence.

Application:

This speaks to the limits of human authority. We often expect things to bend to our expectations, but some things—like wild animals, or even people—are not meant to be controlled. Sometimes, respecting the wildness in others or the unpredictability in life is part of walking humbly with God.

Verses 13–18: The Ostrich – Strength Without Wisdom

"She leaves her eggs on the ground... She treats her young harshly... Because God deprived her of wisdom..." (Job 39:14, 16-17)

¹ Onager, also called Asiatic wild ass. Inhabiting southwestern Asia and formerly distributed also through the Middle East and eastern Asia: the onager is one of the fastest mammals, able to run, and sometimes exceed, 40 miles per hour, and, unlike most donkeys and horses, it has never been domesticated.

The ostrich is a study in contradiction. It has powerful legs and can outrun a horse, yet it neglects its eggs and lacks natural concern for its young. God points to this as an intentional design—He gave strength without wisdom.

Application:

This is a humbling truth: gifts are not evenly distributed. Some have great strength but lack wisdom. Others may be wise but not physically strong. The lesson is to recognize that God's design is purposeful—even when it appears uneven. Rather than question God's fairness, we are invited to acknowledge His prerogative as Creator.

Illustration: The Golden Plover's Migration

Though not in the text, a helpful modern illustration echoes this theme. The golden plover migrates 2,000 miles from Alaska to Hawaii, flying over open ocean without rest. Its navigation system defies explanation. Even more remarkably, its offspring make the same flight weeks later—alone.

Who programmed this into a bird's brain? Not man. This is divine craftsmanship—instinct written by the hand of God. These examples align with Job 39's theme: God's wisdom governs nature, and His methods often elude human understanding.

Verses 19–25: The Horse – Courage and Power in Battle

"Have you given the horse strength? Have you clothed his neck with thunder? ... He smells the battle from afar." (Job 39:19, 25)

The war horse is built for courage and action. God describes the horse's thrill in battle—not in terms of moral right or wrong, but as an example of intentional design. The horse is made for war, and its boldness is part of its created purpose.

Application:

Courage, power, and even emotional fervor are not random—they're woven into creation by a God who delights in variety and purpose. We should never take credit for our strengths as if they originated in us. They are gifts, entrusted for a purpose, and should be used with reverence and humility.

Verses 26–30: The Hawk and the Eagle – Vision and Instinct

"Does the hawk fly by your wisdom... Does the eagle mount up at your command... From there she spies out the prey..." (Job 39:26, 29)

These final images emphasize vision and instinct. The hawk migrates south without a map. The eagle builds its nest on cliffs and spots prey from high altitudes. No one taught them this. No human devised it. These instincts are divine in origin.

Application:

Creation operates under the direction of God's unseen hand. In the same way, your life often follows unseen patterns and guidance. You may not see what God is doing now—but rest assured, He is directing you, just as surely as He does the birds of the air.

Final Reflections

Job 39 is not an academic lecture in biology. It is a divine invitation to humility. God doesn't answer Job's suffering with logic or reasons, but with awe—pointing to the wonder of the world He has made.

This chapter invites us to lay down our insistence on always needing to understand *why*. Instead, it calls us to trust the One who *does* understand—the God who oversees the birth of the wild goat, guides the flight of the eagle, and leads our lives even when the way forward is hidden from view. Everything that shapes us—our strengths and weaknesses, our triumphs and setbacks—becomes a unique opportunity to trust in God's wisdom and respond in worship.

“Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.” (Psalm 147:5, NKJV)