### Job

## Chapter 39

1‘Tell Me this, if you know:  
 When do rock antelopes give birth?  
 And have you seen the birthing of hinds?  
 2Have you counted the months for them to give birth?  
 And do you know how long they have birth pangs?  
  
 3‘Do you know how their offspring are fed,  
 And can you bring an end to their labor?  
 4For their young rip out and many are born…  
 Then they just walk away.  
  
 5‘Who is it that set zebras free…  
 Who untied them from bondage?  
 6I’m the One who [gave him] his home  
 There, in the deserts, and in the salt flats…  
 I’m the One who gave him his dwelling.  
  
 7‘He laughs at the complaints of those living in towns,  
 And tax collectors, he can ignore.  
 8He views the mountains as his pastures,  
 As he searches for green things to eat.  
  
 9‘Can you make the rhinoceros do what you say?  
 Can you force him to sleep in your barn?  
 10Can you tie him with straps and put on a yoke,  
 Then use him to plow up your fields?  
  
 11‘Can you trust him to do this because of his strength,  
 And will he lighten the work that you do?  
 12Can you trust him to carry your grain,  
 And haul it to threshing-floors for you?  
  
 13‘Consider the wings of the ostrich…  
 Whose feathers the storks use for their nests.  
 14They lay their eggs on the ground,  
 Then incubate them in the dust.  
  
 15‘If she forgets them, they then might be lost,  
 Or crushed by wild beasts in the fields.  
 16So, she’s hardened herself against her own young,  
 And she isn’t sad when her work is in vain.  
  
 17‘It was God who removed all her wisdom,  
 And gave her such scant understanding.  
 18But, when she spreads her feathers to run,  
 She laughs at the horse and its rider.  
  
 19‘Was it you who gave the horse all its strength,  
 Or that caused his neck [to tremble] in fear?  
 20Are you the one who gave him full armor,  
 And put the glory of daring in his breast?  
  
 21‘In the fields, he grazes and prances,  
 And with strength, he runs in the plains.  
 22He laughs when he meets up with spears,  
 And from weapons of iron, he never retreats.  
  
 23‘When he’s struck by arrows and swords,  
 24He just gets angry and tears up the ground.  
 He doesn’t quit ‘til the trumpet is blown,  
 25And then he just says, Well done!  
  
 ‘He can even smell war from a distance,  
 Then he stands on his [back] legs and whinnies.  
  
 26‘Was it you who gave hawks their look of defiance  
 As they set their wings to fly towards the south?  
 27Was it by your order that eagles fly high,  
 Or vultures to lodge in nests 28among rocks?  
  
 29‘From such places, [these birds] search for food,  
 For their eyes can see from a distance.  
 30Then their young become covered in blood,  
 Because they can find whatever has died.’  
  
  
31Then Jehovah God said this to Job:  
  
 32‘Have you chosen to correct this One who’s so mighty…  
 And can one who teaches God give an answer?’  
  
  
33Then Job replied to Jehovah:  
  
 34‘So, why must I still go on begging?  
 And for what am I being corrected?  
 Why are my prayers just being ignored?  
  
 ‘Since I can’t reply [to Your questions],  
 I’ll just cover my mouth with my hands…  
 35I’ve spoken and I’ll say no more.’