

Isaiah 40:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?

Analysis

This series of rhetorical questions establishes God's incomprehensibility and absolute sovereignty over creation. The specific measurements—waters in His hand, heavens by span, dust in a measure—demonstrate that all creation is finite to God, manageable by His infinite power. The Hebrew 'takan' (measured) implies precise ordering, not arbitrary action.

Historical Context

Against Babylonian pride in their cosmological achievements and wisdom, Isaiah declares that Israel's God alone measured and created all things, reducing Babylon's gods to nothing.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does meditating on God's measureless power affect your perspective on your current problems?
2. What aspects of God's character does His role as Creator reveal about His ability to save?

Interlinear Text

מִ	בְּשָׂעֵל וּ	מִ יְמִ	וּשְׁמִ יְמִ
H4310	Who hath measured	in the hollow of his hand	the waters
H4058		H8168	H4325
			H8064
עַפְרָ	בְּשָׁלָשׁ	בְּנֵת	בְּנֵת
with the span	and meted out	and comprehended	in a measure
H2239	H8505	H3557	H7991
			H6083
בְּמַאזְנִים	אָגָבָע וְתַ	בְּרִים	בְּמַאזְנִים
of the earth	and weighed	in scales	the mountains
H776	H8254	H6425	H2022
			H1389
			H3976

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 30:4 (Parallel theme): Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell?

Isaiah 48:13 (Parallel theme): Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together.

Revelation 20:11 (Parallel theme): And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

Job 28:25 (Parallel theme): To make the weight for the winds; and he weigheth the waters by measure.

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