

Jeremiah 10:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion.

Analysis

This verse celebrates creation: 'He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion.' Three verbs with three divine attributes: 'made' (asah) with 'power' (koach), 'established' (kun) with 'wisdom' (chokmah), 'stretched out' (natah) with 'discretion/understanding' (tevunah). Creation displays divine strength, wisdom, and intelligence simultaneously. The Hebrew imagery of 'stretching' the heavens like a tent appears throughout Scripture (Psalm 104:2, Isaiah 40:22). Unlike idols fashioned by human craftsmen, YHWH fashioned the entire cosmos through His inherent attributes.

Historical Context

This verse appears nearly identically in Jeremiah 51:15, suggesting formulaic usage in worship or prophetic tradition. Creation theology was crucial during exile when Babylon's creation myths (Enuma Elish) competed for exiles' allegiance. Affirming YHWH as Creator countered Marduk's claims and established His right to universal worship.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How do power, wisdom, and understanding together describe the Creator's work?
2. What does creation's sophistication reveal about its Maker's character?

Interlinear Text

עָשָׂה ה'	אֶרֶץ כָּץ	בְּכֹחַ ו'	יָמַךְ ין	תִּבְּל ל
He hath made	the earth	by his power	he hath established	the world
H6213	H776	H3581	H3559	H8398
בְּחָכְמַת ו'	וּבִתְבוּנַת ו'	נָטָה ה'	שָׁמַיִם:	
by his wisdom	by his discretion	and hath stretched out	the heavens	
H2451	H8394	H5186	H8064	

Additional Cross-References

Job 9:8 (Parallel theme): Which alone spreadeth out the heavens, and treadeth upon the waves of the sea.

Genesis 1:1 (Creation): In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Isaiah 49:8 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages;

Psalms 24:2 (Parallel theme): For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.

Proverbs 3:19 (Parallel theme): The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens.

Isaiah 40:22 (Parallel theme): It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:

Colossians 1:16 (Creation): For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

John 1:3 (Creation): All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Isaiah 44:24 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;

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.