

Job 15:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Art thou the first man that was born? or wast thou made
before the hills?

Analysis

Eliphaz sarcastically asks: 'Art thou the first man that was born? or wast thou made before the hills?' The Hebrew **הָרִאשׁוֹן אָדָם** (harishon adam—the first man) echoes Genesis 2-3. 'Before the hills' (**לִפְנֵי-גִבְעוֹת**, lifney-geva'ot) suggests primordial existence. Eliphaz mocks Job's presumption to question traditional wisdom. Yet the irony: Job doesn't claim special knowledge; he claims normal observation contradicts the friends' theories. The accusation backfires—Eliphaz assumes his tradition contains all wisdom, the actual presumption. The Reformed principle of sola Scriptura warns against elevating tradition to Scripture's level while acknowledging wisdom in Christian tradition tested by Scripture.

Historical Context

Ancient wisdom traditions valued primordial knowledge—the belief that oldest wisdom was truest. Eliphaz here appeals to this, suggesting Job arrogantly claims knowledge reserved for the ancient ones.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do we distinguish between valuing church tradition and making tradition equal to Scripture?
2. What are the dangers of assuming traditional interpretations are beyond questioning?

Interlinear Text

הָרֵאִישׁ וְ	אָדָם	תֵּלֵד ד	וְלִפְנֵי י	גִבֵּעַ וְ	חִלְלָתָּ:
Art thou the first	man	that was born	before	the hills	or wast thou made
H7223	H120	H3205	H6440	H1389	H2342

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 90:2 (Parallel theme): Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.