

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 קָרָא שׁוֹן אֶתְם (harishon adam—the first man) echoes Genesis 2-3. 'Before the hills' לִפְנֵי גְּבֻעֹת (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

חַזְלַתְתָּךְ גַּבּוּ וְתִּלְפְּנֵי תַּלְתָּלָה אֵת בְּרָאֵישׁ וְיַעֲשֵׂה
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.

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