

Job 26:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He hath compassed the waters with bounds, until the day and night come to an end.

Analysis

Job declares God "hath compassed the waters with bounds, until the day and night come to an end." The verb *chaq* (חָק, "compassed") means to inscribe or decree a boundary. God has set limits (*choq*, חֹק) upon the waters—the same word used for divine statutes and laws. This poetic description recalls Genesis 1:9 where God gathered waters into one place, and Jeremiah 5:22 where God set sand as the sea's boundary. From a Reformed perspective, this illustrates God's sovereign governance of creation through established laws. The phrase "until the day and night come to an end" points to creation's temporal nature—these boundaries persist until the eschaton when there will be no more sea (Revelation 21:1). Job's observation combines cosmology and eschatology: God not only created order but maintains it until the appointed consummation. This challenges ancient chaos-combat myths where cosmic order constantly required divine battle against chaos forces.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern cosmologies depicted creation as ongoing battle against primordial waters (Tiamat in Enuma Elish, Yam in Ugaritic texts). Job's portrayal differs radically: God simply decrees boundaries, and chaotic waters obey. No struggle, no uncertainty—just sovereign command. This reflects Genesis 1's controlled, ordered creation account and distinguishes Israelite theology from mythological worldviews of surrounding cultures.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereign ordering of creation inform our understanding of natural laws and scientific inquiry?
2. What does the temporal nature of creation's current order ("until the day and night come to an end") teach us about Christian hope?
3. How might Job's confidence in God's cosmic sovereignty encourage us when our personal lives feel chaotic?

Interlinear Text

חֶקַח	הָ גָ	עַל	פְּנֵי	מִ יָם	עַד	תֵּכֵל יָת
with bounds	He hath compassed		the waters			come to an end
H2706	H2328	H5921	H6440	H4325	H5704	H8503
אֶ וְ	עַם	חֶשֶׁךְ:				
until the day		and night				
H216	H5973	H2822				

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 8:29 (Parallel theme): When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth:

Jeremiah 5:22 (Parallel theme): Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a

perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it?

Psalms 33:7 (Parallel theme): He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses.

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