

Job 26:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The pillars of heaven tremble and are astonished at his reproof.

Analysis

The pillars of heaven tremble and are astonished at his reproof (עַמּוֹתֵי שָׁמָיִם) (רֹאֵף וְיִתְהַרֵּת מִגְּבָרָתָה). Job concludes his cosmological hymn with vertical imagery—after describing God's power over earth and sea, he ascends to the celestial realm. Ammudei shamayim (pillars of heaven) likely refers to mountains conceived as supporting the sky-dome, a common Ancient Near Eastern cosmology reflected poetically in Scripture.

The verb rophaph (רֹאֵף) means to tremble, shake, or totter—these cosmic foundations quake at divine rebuke. Ga'arah (גָּאָרָה, reproof/rebuke) appears frequently when God subdues chaos forces (Psalm 104:7, Nahum 1:4). The mountains' astonishment (tamah, תָּמָה) personifies creation's response to divine majesty—even inanimate creation recognizes and responds to God's authority, anticipating Jesus's claim that if disciples were silent, the stones would cry out (Luke 19:40).

Historical Context

Job 26 contains Job's response to Bildad's third speech, demonstrating that Job's theology of God's cosmic sovereignty exceeds his friends' platitudes. Written during the patriarchal period (circa 2000-1800 BC), the poetry reflects cosmological imagery common across Ancient Near Eastern wisdom literature while asserting YHWH's unique supremacy over all creation.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing that even mountains tremble at God's rebuke affect your response to His Word?
2. In what ways does creation's response to divine authority challenge human pride and autonomy?
3. What does it mean that God's mere rebuke shakes cosmic foundations, yet He speaks gently to repentant sinners?

Interlinear Text

מִגְעָרָתָו: אָתָּה תְּמָה נִשְׁתַּחַת יְמִינְךָ יְמִינְךָ יְמִינְךָ
The pillars of heaven tremble and are astonished at his reproof
H5982 H8064 H7322 H8539 H1606

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 2:8 (Parallel theme): He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them.