

Job 26:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.

Analysis

Job declares: 'He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.' The verb natah (נָתַח, stretcheth) means to spread out or extend. Tsaphon (צָפֹן, north) may refer to the northern sky or celestial regions. Tohu (תוּה) means emptiness or formless void—the same word in Genesis 1:2. The phrase 'hangeth the earth upon nothing' (toleh eretz al-belimah, תָּלָה אֶرֶץ עַל־בְּלִימָה) describes earth suspended in space—remarkably accurate cosmology for ancient times. Job affirms God's creative power and wisdom, refuting any suggestion that he doubts divine sovereignty.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern cosmologies typically portrayed earth resting on pillars, animals, or divine beings. Job's description of earth hanging on nothing is scientifically remarkable, possibly inspired revelation. The passage appears in Job's response to Bildad, demonstrating that Job's protests don't reflect ignorance of or doubt about God's power—he questions divine purposes while affirming divine attributes.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Job's affirmation of God's creative power demonstrate that questioning God's purposes doesn't deny His attributes?
2. What does this scientifically accurate cosmology suggest about the inspiration of Scripture?

Interlinear Text

נָטַת	אֶצְפָּרָא	עַל	תֵּהַזְתָּ	תֵּלָה	אֶרְזָתָה
He stretcheth out	the north	H5921	over the empty place	and hangeth	the earth
H5186	H6828		H8414	H8518	H776
עַל	בְּלִי	מִהָּ:			
upon nothing		H4100			
H5921		H1099			

Additional Cross-References

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:

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

Isaiah 42:5 (Parallel theme): Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein:

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

Isaiah 40:26 (Parallel theme): Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth.

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