

Job 28:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The depth saith, It is not in me: and the sea saith, It is not with me.

Analysis

Personified elements speak: "The depth saith, It is not in me: and the sea saith, It is not with me." The noun *tehom* (תְּהוֹם, "depth") refers to the primordial deep, the abyss. The noun *yam* (יָם, "sea") represents the ocean. Job personifies creation confessing wisdom's absence. Despite containing treasures and mysteries, the deepest places cannot yield wisdom. This poetic device emphasizes wisdom's transcendence—no earthly searching, however deep, discovers it. From a Reformed perspective, this illustrates that wisdom is not discovered but revealed. Human investigation of creation yields knowledge (natural revelation) but not saving wisdom. Paul declares, "The world by wisdom knew not God" (1 Corinthians 1:21). Wisdom must be disclosed from above. Job 28 anticipates John 1:14: "The Word was made flesh"—God's wisdom became accessible through Christ's incarnation, dwelling among us.

Historical Context

Ancient cosmology conceived of *tehom* as the chaotic waters beneath the earth (Genesis 1:2, 7:11). The sea represented mystery, danger, and the unknown. Job's dialogue with creation echoes Psalm 104 and anticipates Romans 8:19-22, where creation itself groans, awaiting redemption. The personification of natural elements was common in ancient poetry but here serves theological purpose—all creation testifies to wisdom's transcendence.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What does creation's inability to provide wisdom teach about the limits of natural theology?
2. How does the incarnation resolve the problem Job identifies—wisdom's inaccessibility?
3. What is the proper relationship between investigating creation scientifically and seeking wisdom spiritually?

Interlinear Text

אַמְرָתָה וְמִם בַּיִלְאָמָר יְאָמֵן

The depth

H8415

saith

H559

H3808

H0

H1931

It is not in me and the sea

H3220

saith

H559

עַמְלֵי אָמֵן

H369

H5978

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