

Job 28:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For he looketh to the ends of the earth, and seeth under the whole heaven;

Analysis

For he looketh to the ends of the earth, and seeth under the whole heaven

—This verse transitions from wisdom's hiddenness to God's omniscience. The Hebrew *ra'ah* (רָאָה, to see/perceive) appears twice, emphasizing God's comprehensive vision. *Qetseh ha'aretz* (קֶצֶח־הָאָרֶץ, ends of the earth) denotes the furthest geographical extremities, while *tachat kol-hashamayim* (תְּחִתַּת כָּל־הַשָּׁמָיִם, under all the heavens) encompasses everything within creation's dome.

The contrast is deliberate: humans cannot find wisdom even in accessible places (mining shafts, the land of the living), but God sees everything simultaneously—from earth's extremities to every cubic inch under heaven. This divine omniscience isn't passive observation but active, comprehensive knowledge. The verse prepares for vv. 25-27, where God's seeing leads to creative ordering—weighing winds, measuring waters, decreeing natural laws. Unlike human sight limited by distance, darkness, and death, God's vision penetrates all barriers. This echoes Proverbs 15:3, 'The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.'

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern creation accounts often depicted gods with limited knowledge or geographical domains. In contrast, Job's monotheism presents one God whose vision encompasses all creation. The phrase 'ends of the earth' reflects ancient cosmology viewing the earth as a disc with edges, yet the theological point transcends the physical model—no place exists beyond God's sight. This

comprehensive divine knowledge becomes crucial when God challenges Job from the whirlwind (chapters 38-41), asking if Job was present at creation or understands its governance.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does God's ability to see 'under the whole heaven' comfort you when facing circumstances that seem hidden or forgotten?
2. What difference does it make that the God who sees everything is also the God who creates with wisdom and order?
3. How should divine omniscience shape our understanding that wisdom belongs to God rather than being humanly discoverable?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	אֵל	הַ	לְקַצּוֹת	לְ	אֵל	בָּ	יְבָטֵח	תְּ	כָּל	
H3588	H1931		to the ends		of the earth		For he looketh		H8478	H3605
			H7098		H776		H5027			

בְּשָׁמָן	וְ	רָאָה
under the whole heaven		and seeth
H8064		H7200

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 15:3 (Parallel theme): The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

Zechariah 4:10 (Parallel theme): For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth.

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