

Job 38:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Where is the way where light dwelleth? and as for darkness,
where is the place thereof,

Analysis

"Where is the way where light dwelleth? and as for darkness, where is the place thereof?" God asks about light and darkness's origin and habitation. Ancient thought often personified these as substances with dwelling places. The question probes reality's fundamental nature—sources of light and darkness. Job cannot answer, highlighting God's unique knowledge of creation's deepest structures. Theologically, this anticipates John 1's revelation that God is light (1 John 1:5) and Christ is the light of the world (John 8:12). Ultimate light originates in God Himself.

Historical Context

Ancient cosmologies offered various explanations for day/night cycles, often involving divine beings or mythological mechanisms. Israel affirmed that God established both light and darkness through sovereign decree (Genesis 1:3-5). The question reminds Job and readers that understanding nature's fundamentals requires divine revelation, not human speculation.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does understanding that light ultimately originates in God shape our pursuit of truth?
2. What does it mean practically that Christ is the light of the world and we are called to be lights?

Interlinear Text

אֵי הַיְהּ יְהִי דָּרְכָּךְ יְשַׁבֵּא וְרַיִשְׁתָּא שְׁמַךְ אֵי הַיְהּ יְהִי שְׁמַךְ
H335 H2088 Where is the way dwelleth where light and as for darkness H335 H2088

H1870 H7931 H216 H2822

:וְיַדְעָה

where is the place

H4725

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 32:8 (Light): All the bright lights of heaven will I make dark over thee, and set darkness upon thy land, saith the Lord GOD.

Isaiah 45:7 (Light): I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.

Psalms 105:28 (Darkness): He sent darkness, and made it dark; and they rebelled not against his word.

Psalms 104:20 (Darkness): Thou makest darkness, and it is night: wherein all the beasts of the forest do creep forth.

Psalms 18:11 (Darkness): He made darkness his secret place; his pavilion round about him were dark waters and thick clouds of the skies.

Jeremiah 13:16 (Light): Give glory to the LORD your God, before he cause darkness, and before your feet stumble upon the dark mountains, and, while ye look for light, he turn it into the shadow of death, and make it gross darkness.

Matthew 27:45 (Darkness): Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

John 8:12 (Light): Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 1:9 (Light): That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

Deuteronomy 4:19 (Parallel theme): And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven.