

Job 38:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Out of whose womb came the ice? and the hoary frost of heaven, who hath gendered it?

Analysis

"Out of whose womb came the ice? and the hoary frost of heaven, who hath gendered it?" Continuing the parentage theme, God uses feminine imagery—womb (beten, בֶּטֶן) and gendering (yalad, יָלַד). Ice and frost lack natural parents; God alone produces them. The mixing of masculine (fathering) and feminine (womb) imagery for God's creative work shows both are metaphors pointing to the One who transcends gender categories. This challenges any limitation of God to human categories while affirming He is the sole source of all creation.

Historical Context

Ancient cosmologies often featured divine couples producing natural phenomena. Biblical monotheism rejected such mythologies. God encompasses all generative power without requiring a consort. This distinguished Israel's faith from surrounding polytheism and elevated God above all creation.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do the varied metaphors for God's creative work expand our understanding of His nature?
2. What false "sources" of blessing or provision do we need to recognize as coming ultimately from God?

Interlinear Text

מִבְּטֶן	מֵי	יָצָא	הַקֶּיֶץ	וְכֹפֹר	שָׁמַיִם	מֵי
Out of whose womb	H4310	came	the ice	and the hoary frost	of heaven	H4310
H990		H3318	H7140	H3713	H8064	
:לְדוֹ:						
who hath gendered						
H3205						

Additional Cross-References

Job 37:10 (Parallel theme): By the breath of God frost is given: and the breadth of the waters is straitened.