

Job 38:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof;

Analysis

"Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof?" The Hebrew *adaneyha* (אֲדָנֶיהָ, "foundations") and even *pinnah* (פִּנָּה, "corner stone") employ architectural metaphor for cosmic stability. Ancient cosmology imagined earth resting on foundations or pillars. God's question emphasizes creation's stability derives from His power alone, not physical supports. The cornerstone, crucial for structural integrity, points to Christ as the ultimate cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20, 1 Peter 2:6). This verse underscores creation's utter dependence on God's sustaining power.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern cosmologies featured various foundation myths—earth on pillars, floating on water, or supported by deities. Israel's understanding, while using similar imagery, affirmed that creation's stability came from Yahweh's word and power alone. The cornerstone ceremony was significant in ancient building practices, often involving religious rituals.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Christ as the cornerstone of creation and redemption shape our understanding of reality?
2. In what ways do we seek stability in created things rather than the Creator who sustains all?

Interlinear Text

עַל	מֵה	אֲדָנִי יְהוָה	הַטֵּבָּעוֹ	וְ	אֵל	מִי
H5921	H4100	Whereupon are the foundations	thereof fastened	H176	H4310	
		H134	H2883			
אוֹ	כִּי	לָאֵן	אֶבֶן	פִּנְתֹּהֶ:		
or who laid	stone	the corner				
H3384	H68	H6438				

Additional Cross-References

Job 26:7 (Parallel theme): He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.

Psalms 104:5 (Parallel theme): Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever.

Isaiah 28:16 (Parallel theme): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

Psalms 93:1 (Parallel theme): The LORD reigneth, he is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed with strength, wherewith he hath girded himself: the world also is stablished, that it cannot be moved.

Psalms 118:22 (Parallel theme): The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.

2 Peter 3:5 (Parallel theme): For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

Zechariah 12:1 (Parallel theme): The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him.

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