

Proverbs 25:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The heaven for height, and the earth for depth, and the heart of kings is unsearchable.

Analysis

Heaven's height, earth's depth, and 'the heart of kings are unsearchable.' The Hebrew 'ein chequer' (unsearchable/without investigation) applies natural mysteries to human complexity, especially rulers' hearts. This counsels humility—we cannot fully know others' motives or thoughts, particularly those in power. Reformed theology affirms God alone searches hearts (Jeremiah 17:10). This verse warns against presuming to judge others' hearts and counsels caution in dealing with authority. Only God knows the heart; we see only external actions.

Historical Context

Ancient courts were notoriously inscrutable. Understanding a king's true intentions was nearly impossible for subjects, making wisdom in approaching rulers essential for survival.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing the limits of your knowledge of others' hearts promote humility?
2. What does it mean to judge righteous judgment of actions while leaving heart-judgment to God?
3. How should awareness of your own heart's complexity affect how you view and judge others?

Interlinear Text

אֵין תְּשִׁמְעָה יְמִינָה רָם לְגַם תְּאֵן תְּמִיקָה לְעֵמֶק וְלִבְבָּשׂ וְלִבְבָּשׂ יְמִינָה
The heaven for height and the earth for depth and the heart of kings H369
H8064 H7312 H776 H6011 H3820 H4428

חַקְרָה:
is unsearchable
H2714

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 55:9 (Parallel theme): For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Psalms 103:11 (Parallel theme): For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.

1 Kings 4:29 (Parallel theme): And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore.