

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 cheqer' (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

שָׁמַיִם	לְרוֹם	וְאֶרֶץ	לְעֵמֶק	וְלִב	מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יְיָ	H369
The heaven	for height	and the earth	for depth	and the heart	of kings	
H8064	H7312	H776	H6011	H3820	H4428	
חֲקֵר:						
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.