

Proverbs 3:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew.

Analysis

God's wisdom is displayed in creation. The Hebrew 'da'ath' (knowledge) describes not abstract information but skillful expertise. The depths breaking open and clouds dropping dew illustrate God's ordered governance of natural processes. This verse grounds wisdom in creation theology - the same wisdom by which God made the world is offered to us for living in it. Understanding creation's design principles helps us live wisely.

Historical Context

Ancient cosmology viewed seas and atmospheric waters as primordial chaos requiring divine control. This verse affirms God's sovereign ordering of these forces through His wisdom, contrasting with pagan myths of gods battling chaos monsters. Israel's creation theology was distinctively monotheistic and orderly.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does observing creation's order inform your understanding of God's wisdom?
2. What can we learn about wise living from studying God's design in nature?
3. How does evolutionary materialism rob nature of its wisdom-revealing function?

Interlinear Text

בְּיָדָיו	תְּהוֹמֹת	נִבְקָה	וּשְׁחָקֵי	יִרְעָפוּ	טֶל:
By his knowledge	the depths	are broken up	and the clouds	drop down	the dew
H1847	H8415	H1234	H7834	H7491	H2919

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 7:11 (Parallel theme): In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.

Genesis 1:9 (Parallel theme): And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.

Genesis 27:28 (Parallel theme): Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine:

Jeremiah 14:22 (Parallel theme): Are there any among the vanities of the Gentiles that can cause rain? or can the heavens give showers? art not thou he, O LORD our God? therefore we will wait upon thee: for thou hast made all these things.

Deuteronomy 33:28 (Parallel theme): Israel then shall dwell in safety alone: the fountain of Jacob shall be upon a land of corn and wine; also his heavens shall drop down dew.

Joel 2:23 (Parallel theme): Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.

