

Proverbs 30:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell?

Analysis

Agur asks: Who has ascended to heaven or descended? Who gathered wind or bound waters? Who established earth's ends? 'What is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell?' These rhetorical questions point to God's transcendent power and anticipate Christ ('his son'). Only God has cosmic authority. Reformed theology sees this as proto-Trinitarian—Father and Son governing creation. These questions humble human pretension while pointing to divine power and the coming Messiah.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern creation myths attributed cosmic powers to various gods. Agur's questions assert monotheism—only Yahweh and His Son possess creative and sustaining power over creation.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How do these questions about cosmic power point you to worship God's transcendence?
2. How do you see anticipation of Christ as God's Son in this Old Testament text?
3. What does it mean that the Creator descended to earth in Jesus Christ?

Interlinear Text

מִי	עָלָה	שָׁמַיִם	וְיָרַד	מִי	אָסַף		
H4310	Who hath ascended up	into heaven	or descended	H4310	who hath gathered		
	H5927	H8064	H3381		H622		
רוּחַ	בְּחִפְּזוֹ	מִי	צָבַר	מַיִם	בְּשִׁמְלָה	מִי	
the wind	in his fists	H4310	who hath bound	the waters	in a garment	H4310	
H7307	H2651		H6887	H4325	H8071		
יָקַם	כָּל	אֶפְסֵי	אֶרֶץ	מָה	שֵׁם	וְמָה	שֵׁם
who hath established	H3605	all the ends	of the earth	H4100	name	H4100	name
H6965		H657	H776		H8034		H8034
וְנֹא	כִּי	תֵדַע:					
and what is his son's	H3588	if thou canst tell					
H1121		H3045					

Additional Cross-References

John 3:13 (Parallel theme): And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

Job 26:8 (Parallel theme): He bindeth up the waters in his thick clouds; and the cloud is not rent under them.

Isaiah 9:6 (Parallel theme): For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called

Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 7:14 (Parallel theme): Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Deuteronomy 30:12 (Parallel theme): It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?

Romans 10:6 (Parallel theme): But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)

Revelation 19:12 (Parallel theme): His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

Isaiah 53:8 (Parallel theme): He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

Psalms 68:18 (Parallel theme): Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell among them.

Deuteronomy 28:58 (Parallel theme): If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD;