

Proverbs 8:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old.

Analysis

The LORD possessed wisdom at creation's beginning, before His works of old. The Hebrew 'qanah' (possess/create/acquire) describes wisdom's primordial existence. Wisdom isn't created thing but eternal attribute of God, possessed before creation. John 1:1-3 echoes this: 'In the beginning was the Word...all things were made by him.' Wisdom/Word/Christ existed eternally with God, instrumental in creation. This grounds wisdom in God's eternal being.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern cosmogonies often described gods creating through conflict or sexual generation. Genesis and Proverbs radically differ - God creates through wisdom/word, rationally ordering chaos into cosmos. No divine conflict, no theogony (god-birthing), just sovereign wise creation. This revolutionized understanding of both God and creation - reality is rationally ordered because it's wisely designed.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does wisdom's eternal existence with God affect your understanding of truth?
2. In what ways does creation reveal divine wisdom's order and design?
3. How does Christ as eternal Wisdom change your relationship with truth and knowledge?

Interlinear Text

יְהוָה ה	קָנִי	רֵאשִׁית	דֶּרֶכֹּךָ	קִדְמָה	מִפְעֲלֵי	מְאֹזֶיךָ
The LORD	possessed	me in the beginning	of his way	before	his works	
H3068	H7069	H7225	H1870	H6924	H4659	H227

Additional Cross-References

Colossians 1:17 (Parallel theme): And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Proverbs 3:19 (References Lord): The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens.

Psalms 104:24 (References Lord): O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.