

Proverbs 8:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water.

Analysis

Before the depths existed, before fountains heavy with water, wisdom was brought forth. The Hebrew 'chuwl' (brought forth/born) uses birthing imagery, though not suggesting wisdom is created - rather, emphasizing priority and intimacy. Before primordial waters existed, wisdom was there. The progression emphasizes wisdom's absolute priority over all created things. Everything created presupposes wisdom; wisdom presupposes nothing.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern cosmologies often began with primordial waters (Tiamat in Babylonian myth, Nun in Egyptian). Genesis 1:2 references 'the deep' (tehom), but Israel's God orders these waters; He doesn't emerge from them or battle them. Proverbs 8 further emphasizes that even before these primordial waters, wisdom existed with God. Divine wisdom precedes and orders all physical reality.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does wisdom's priority over all creation affect your understanding of truth's authority?
2. What areas of life do you treat as more fundamental than God's wisdom?
3. How should recognizing wisdom's absolute priority reorder your values and pursuits?

Interlinear Text

בְּאֵין H369	תְּהֵם וְתֵם H8415	חֹלַל לְתִי H2342	בְּאֵין H369
	When there were no depths	I was brought forth	
	מִן עֵינַי וְתֵם H4599	נִכְבְּדִי H3513	מֵיִם: H4325
	when there were no fountains	abounding	with water

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 3:20 (Parallel theme): By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew.

Genesis 1:2 (Parallel theme): And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

1 John 4:9 (Parallel theme): In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.