

Proverbs 8:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I
brought forth:

Analysis

Before mountains were settled, before hills, wisdom existed. The Hebrew 'taba' (sink down/settle) describes mountains being established. Even earth's most ancient, stable features postdate wisdom. Mountains seem eternal and immovable, yet they're created realities that presuppose wisdom. Only God and His attributes truly have eternity. Everything physical, however ancient or stable, is contingent.

Historical Context

Ancient peoples viewed mountains as eternal, unchanging - 'everlasting hills' (Genesis 49:26). Yet Proverbs insists even these aren't truly eternal. Psalm 90:2 teaches: 'Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.' Divine eternity relativizes all created stability.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What seemingly permanent realities in your life are actually contingent and changeable?
2. How does recognizing that only God and His wisdom are truly eternal affect your security?
3. What false sources of stability (wealth, health, relationships) need to be subordinated to God's eternal wisdom?

Interlinear Text

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|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------|------------------|
| בְּטָרָם | הָרִים | הִתְבַּרְּעוּ | לִפְנֵי | גִּבְעֹת |
| H2962 | Before the mountains | were settled | before | the hills |
| | H2022 | H2883 | H6440 | H1389 |
| חִלַּלְתִּי: | | | | |
| was I brought forth | | | | |
| H2342 | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 90:2 (Parallel theme): Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.

Hebrews 1:10 (Parallel theme): And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: