

Proverbs 8:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world.

Analysis

Before God made earth, fields, or the first dust, wisdom existed. The Hebrew 'erets' (earth), 'chutsowth' (fields/open places), and 'rosh aphan' (beginning/chief of dust) describe comprehensive pre-creation reality. Every aspect of physical creation - earth itself, cultivated fields, primordial dust - all postdate wisdom. Wisdom isn't discovered truth within creation but eternal truth preceding and enabling creation.

Historical Context

Genesis 2:7 describes God forming man from dust. This dust, Proverbs teaches, itself required wisdom for existence. The progression in Proverbs 8:22-26 systematically moves through creation elements (depths, fountains, mountains, hills, earth, fields, dust), asserting wisdom's priority over each. This comprehensive survey establishes wisdom's absolute preeminence.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does wisdom's precedence over all physical reality affect your epistemology (theory of knowledge)?
2. What truths do you treat as discovered (found within creation) versus revealed (given from beyond creation)?
3. How should recognizing wisdom's transcendent origin affect your approach to learning and truth?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵת עַד שָׁהֵם אֵת כֶּרֶת וְחַזְׁכָּלָתָה
H5704 H3808 While as yet he had not made the earth nor the fields

H6213 H776 H2351

תִּבְלֵל עַפְרָה וְתִּרְאֵשׁ
nor the highest part of the dust of the world

H7218 H6083 H8398

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