

Proverbs 8:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth:

Analysis

When God prepared the heavens, wisdom was there; when He set a compass on the deep's face. The Hebrew 'kuwn' (prepare/establish) and 'chuwg' (circle/compass/vault) describe creation's ordering. Wisdom wasn't merely observer but participant in creation. The 'compass on the deep' likely refers to horizon's circular boundary or earth's spherical shape. God's creative wisdom produced ordered cosmos from chaos.

Historical Context

Ancient cosmology debated whether universe was rationally ordered or chaotically random. Biblical creation affirms rational order because wise Creator designed it. This undergirded scientific revolution - nature operates by discoverable laws because wise God established them. Modern scientism ironically depends on assumptions (natural law, rationality, order) grounded in biblical creation theology it rejects.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does understanding creation as wisely designed affect your scientific and philosophical outlook?
2. What observations of natural order reveal divine wisdom to you?
3. How should creation's wise design inform your confidence in discovering truth through study?

Interlinear Text

בְּהֵכִינֵו	שָׁמַיִם	שָׁמַיִם	אֶנִּי	בְּהֵכִינֵו	וְגַ
When he prepared	the heavens	H8033	H589	I was there when he set	a compass
H3559	H8064			H2710	H2329
עַל	פְּנֵי	תְהוֹמוֹת			
H5921	upon the face	of the depth			
	H6440	H8415			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 40:22 (Parallel theme): It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:

Job 26:10 (Parallel theme): He hath compassed the waters with bounds, until the day and night come to an end.

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

Colossians 1:16 (Parallel theme): For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Psalms 136:5 (Parallel theme): To him that by wisdom made the heavens: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Jeremiah 10:12 (Parallel theme): He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion.

Hebrews 1:2 (Parallel theme): Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

Isaiah 40:11 (Parallel theme): He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

Psalms 33:6 (Parallel theme): By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

Psalms 103:19 (Parallel theme): The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.