

Proverbs 8:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth:

Analysis

When God gave the sea its boundary, when He laid earth's foundations, wisdom was there. The Hebrew 'chaqaq' (decree/inscribe) and 'mow'da' (foundation) describe authoritative establishing. Job 38:8-11 similarly describes God setting sea's boundaries. Wisdom establishes both limits (sea's boundary) and foundations (earth's stability). Creation involves both restriction and support - limiting chaos, establishing order. Divine wisdom providentially governs all reality.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern myths portrayed sea as chaotic threat requiring divine combat (Baal vs Yam, Marduk vs Tiamat). Biblical creation radically differs - God sovereignly commands sea's boundaries without struggle. Jeremiah 5:22 asks: 'Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it?' Divine wisdom's decree secures creation against chaos.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereign boundary-setting in creation provide security in your life?
2. What chaotic forces in your life need divine wisdom's authoritative limits?
3. How should recognition of God's foundational wisdom affect your stability amid instability?

Interlinear Text

וְיֻבְרֹא לֹא מִמֶּנּוּ בְּשֵׁם וְמִן
When he gave to the sea his decree that the waters should not pass
H7760 H3220 H2706 H4325 H3808 H5674

אָרֶץ כָּתַף בְּזִימָן מִזְמָרֶת גַּם
his commandment when he appointed the foundations of the earth
H6310 H2710 H4144 H776

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 104:9 (Parallel theme): Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth.

Jeremiah 5:22 (Parallel theme): Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it?

Psalms 104:5 (Parallel theme): Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever.