

Psalm 104:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They go up by the mountains; they go down by the valleys unto the place which thou hast founded for them.

Analysis

Waters flowing down from mountains to valleys demonstrate God's intentional geographic design. 'They go up...they go down' shows divine choreography of earth's topography. God didn't merely create but arranged creation purposefully. Each feature serves His design. This verse transitions from watery chaos to ordered landscape, showing God's providence in providing for creation. Christ's care for creation (Matt 6:26-30) reflects this same detailed providence. Reformed theology sees God's hand in every natural process.

Historical Context

The water cycle—evaporation, rain, rivers flowing to seas—was partially understood in ancient times. This verse describes observable natural processes while attributing them to God's sovereign design and command.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does observing nature's intricate design strengthen your faith in God's providential care?
2. What 'natural' processes in your life do you need to recognize as God's sovereign arrangement?

Interlinear Text

מִקְרָם	אֶל	בְּקָעָוֹת	יַרְדֵּן	בְּרִים	יַעַל
They go up	by the mountains	they go down	by the valleys	H413	unto the place

וְהַיְתָה	יְסַדְתָּה	לְקָמָן
which	thou hast founded	H1992

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 8:5 (Parallel theme): And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month: in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, were the tops of the mountains seen.

Psalms 33:7 (Parallel theme): He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses.

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