

Psalms 139:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

Analysis

My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Substance (עַצְמָה, otsem) means bone, frame, or essence—the structural foundation of personhood. **Made in secret** (בָּטָן, ba-sether) describes the hidden, mysterious process of gestation. **Curiously wrought** (רָקָם, raqam) is an embroiderer's term: variegated, intricately woven with colors—depicting the complexity of human development.

The lowest parts of the earth is poetic imagery comparing the womb's darkness to the depths of creation, echoing God's forming Adam from dust (Genesis 2:7). Though embryonic development is hidden from human eyes, nothing is concealed from God's gaze. This verse celebrates both the hiddenness and the divine visibility of prenatal life.

Historical Context

Without modern embryology, David used poetic metaphor to describe prenatal development. The image of being 'wrought' in earth's depths may reflect ancient understanding of the womb as connected to creation's primal elements. Job 10:8-11 similarly describes God's intricate creative work in utero.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does God's intimate knowledge of your 'secret' formation reveal about what He knows of your hidden struggles and inner life today?
2. How does the 'embroidered' complexity of human design point to intentional divine purpose rather than random chance?
3. In what ways are you still being 'curiously wrought' by God through sanctification?

Interlinear Text

לֹא	H3808	נִנְבַּתְּ	H3582	עָצָם	H6108	מִתְּבָנָה	H4480	אֲשֶׁר	H834	מִתְּבָנָה	H6213	עַשְׂתָּה	יְתִי
was not hid		My substance						from thee when I was made					

בְּטַהֲרָה	H5643	מִתְּבָנָה	H7551	וְתַתְּ	H8482	בְּתַתְּ	H776	אָרֶץ	H776
in secret		and curiously wrought		in the lowest parts		of the earth			

Additional Cross-References

Ecclesiastes 11:5 (Parallel theme): As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all.

Psalms 139:13 (Parallel theme): For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.

Psalms 63:9 (Parallel theme): But those that seek my soul, to destroy it, shall go into the lower parts of the earth.