

2 Samuel 22:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations of heaven moved and shook, because he was wroth.

Analysis

Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations of heaven moved and shook, because he was wroth.

This verse contributes to the narrative of David's Song, emphasizing praising God for deliverance. David's psalm of deliverance (parallel to Psalm 18) celebrates God's faithfulness throughout his tumultuous reign. The Hebrew poetry employs vivid imagery of divine intervention, warrior language, and covenant terminology. Theological themes include praising God for deliverance, reviewing God's faithfulness in retrospect, the righteousness of God's judgments, and anticipation of ultimate victory through God's anointed (messianic overtones).

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 22 occurs during David's reign (circa 1010-970 BCE) over Israel's united monarchy. Archaeological discoveries, including the Tel Dan inscription mentioning the 'House of David,' corroborate biblical historicity. Ancient Near Eastern customs regarding praising God for deliverance provide crucial background. The geopolitical situation involved regional powers—Philistines, Ammonites, Arameans, Moabites, Edomites—as David consolidated and expanded Israel's territory. Cultural practices concerning kingship, warfare, covenant relationships, family dynamics, and religious observance differed significantly from modern Western contexts, requiring careful attention to avoid

anachronistic interpretation while extracting timeless theological principles applicable across cultures and eras.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of praising God for deliverance?
2. What does this verse reveal about God's character, and how should that shape your worship and obedience?
3. In what specific ways can you apply this truth to your current circumstances and relationships this week?

Interlinear Text

וַתִּנָּעַשׂ וּ	וַתִּרְעַשׂ	הָאָרֶץ	מִיְסוּדָהּ	הַשָּׁמַיִם	זָזוּ
and shook	and trembled	Then the earth	the foundations	of heaven	moved
H1607	H7493	H776	H4146	H8064	H7264
וַתִּנָּעַשׂ וּ	כִּי	הָיָה	לִּי		
and shook		because he was wroth			
H1607	H3588	H2734	H0		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 97:4 (Parallel theme): His lightnings enlightened the world: the earth saw, and trembled.

Job 26:11 (Parallel theme): The pillars of heaven tremble and are astonished at his reproof.

Psalms 77:18 (Parallel theme): The voice of thy thunder was in the heaven: the lightnings lightened the world: the earth trembled and shook.

Judges 5:4 (Parallel theme): LORD, when thou wentest out of Seir, when thou marchedst out of the field of Edom, the earth trembled, and the heavens dropped, the clouds also dropped water.

Psalms 18:7 (Parallel theme): Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth.

Matthew 28:2 (Parallel theme): And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

Nahum 1:5 (Parallel theme): The mountains quake at him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at his presence, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein.