

Amos 4:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For, lo, he that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is his thought, that maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth, The LORD, The God of hosts, is his name.

Analysis

This doxology proclaims Yahweh's cosmic sovereignty: **He that formeth the mountains** (יֹצֵר הָרִים, yotzer harim)—the participle emphasizes continuous creative power. **And createth the wind** (וּבֹרֵא רוּחַ, uvore ruach)—רוּחַ (ruach) means both 'wind' and 'spirit,' suggesting God's control over both physical and spiritual realms. **And declareth unto man what is his thought** (וּמַגִּיד לְאָדָם מַה־שֵּׂחוֹ, umagid l'adam mah-secho)—God reveals His purposes to humans through prophetic revelation. **That maketh the morning darkness** (עֹשֶׂה שַׁחַר עֵיפָה, oseh shachar eifah)—He controls day and night. **And treadeth upon the high places of the earth** (וְדָרַךְ עַל־בָּמֹתַי אֶרֶץ, v'dorech al-bamotei aretz)—walking on earth's high places demonstrates absolute authority. **The LORD, The God of hosts, is his name** (יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי־צְבָאוֹת שְׁמוֹ, YHWH Elohei-tzva'ot sh'mo).

This hymnic interruption follows severe judgment oracles, reminding Israel who they're resisting. The God who judges is the Creator-Sustainer of all reality. Similar doxologies appear in Amos 5:8-9 and 9:5-6, structuring the book around God's cosmic majesty—rebellion against such a God guarantees destruction.

Historical Context

These doxological fragments may derive from ancient Israelite hymns. Their placement after judgment oracles serves theological purpose: reminding hearers that Amos speaks for the sovereign Creator, not merely offering political opinion. The phrases echo creation language from Genesis and anticipate New Testament Christology (Colossians 1:15-17).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing God as Creator of mountains and wind humble human pride and self-sufficiency?
2. What does it mean that the same God who reveals His thoughts is also the God who judges sin?
3. How should God's cosmic sovereignty shape our understanding of His authority to judge nations and individuals?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	הִנֵּה	יוֹצֵר	הַרֵי יַם	וּבֹרֵא	רֵוֶחַ
H3588	H2009	For lo he that formeth	the mountains	and createth	the wind
		H3335	H2022	H1254	H7307
וּמְגִיד	לְאָדָם	מֶה	שֵׁחַ וְ	עֹשֶׂה	שֶׁחֶר
and declareth	unto man	H4100	what is his thought	that maketh	the morning
H5046	H120		H7808	H6213	H7837
עִיפָה	וְדָרָה	עַל	בְּמִיתֵי	אֶרֶץ	יְהוָה
darkness	and treadeth	H5921	upon the high places	of the earth	The LORD
H5890	H1869		H1116	H776	H3068
אֱלֹהֵי	צָבָא	וְזֶה שְׁמוֹ:			
The God	of hosts	is his name			
H430	H6635	H8034			

Additional Cross-References

Amos 5:8 (Darkness): Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion, and turneth the shadow of death into the morning, and maketh the day dark with night: that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The LORD is his name:

Micah 1:3 (References Lord): For, behold, the LORD cometh forth out of his place, and will come down, and tread upon the high places of the earth.

Amos 9:6 (References Lord): It is he that buildeth his stories in the heaven, and hath founded his troop in the earth; he that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The LORD is his name.

Isaiah 47:4 (References Lord): As for our redeemer, the LORD of hosts is his name, the Holy One of Israel.

Psalms 65:6 (Parallel theme): Which by his strength setteth fast the mountains; being girded with power:

Jeremiah 13:16 (Darkness): Give glory to the LORD your God, before he cause darkness, and before your feet stumble upon the dark mountains, and, while ye look for light, he turn it into the shadow of death, and make it gross darkness.

Deuteronomy 33:29 (References Lord): Happy art thou, O Israel: who is like unto thee, O people saved by the LORD, the shield of thy help, and who is the sword of thy excellency! and thine enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou shalt tread upon their high places.

Daniel 2:28 (References God): But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

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