

Daniel 7:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him:
thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand
times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set,
and the books were opened.

Analysis

Heaven's worship surrounds God's throne: 'A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.' The 'fiery stream' represents ongoing judgment flowing from God's holiness. The astronomical numbers ('thousand thousands...ten thousand times ten thousand') depict innumerable angels worshiping God. The 'books opened' indicates divine records determining judgment (cf. Revelation 20:12). This cosmic courtroom scene shows all creation accountable to divine justice.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern kings held court surrounded by servants; God's court infinitely surpasses earthly parallels. Jewish angelology recognized vast numbers of angelic beings serving God. The judgment scene influenced later apocalyptic literature, especially Revelation 20's final judgment. The 'books' concept appears throughout Scripture—God records all deeds, thoughts, and lives. Early Christians saw this fulfilled in Christ's judgment seat (2 Corinthians 5:10) where believers' works are evaluated and final judgment where all stand before God.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the innumerable angelic worship demonstrate God's worthiness and the proper response to His glory?
2. What does the opening of books teach about divine omniscience—all actions, words, and thoughts recorded for judgment?

Interlinear Text

נָהַר	דִּי	נֹר	נִגְדָה	וַיֵּצֵא	מִן	קִדְמָה	וְהִי	אֱלֹפִים
stream	H1768	A fiery	issued	and came forth	from	before		him thousand
H5103		H5135	H5047	H5312	H4481	H6925		H506
אֱלֹפִים	יִשְׁמְשׁוּהָ	הִיא	רַבָּה	רַבָּה	רַבָּה	קִדְמָה	וְהִי	
him thousand	ministered		times ten thousand	times ten thousand	times ten thousand	before		
H506	H8120		H7240	H7240	H7240	H6925		
יָקוּם	דִּין	אֵל	יָתִב	וַיִּפְתְּחוּ	סֵפֶר	וְהִי	וְהִי	
stood	him the judgment		was set	and the books	were opened			
H6966	H1780		H3488	H5609	H6606			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 30:27 (Parallel theme): Behold, the name of the LORD cometh from far, burning with his anger, and the burden thereof is heavy: his lips are full of indignation, and his tongue as a devouring fire:

Deuteronomy 33:2 (Parallel theme): And he said, The LORD came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; he shined forth from mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands of saints: from his right hand went a fiery law for them.

Psalms 50:3 (Parallel theme): Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him.

Revelation 5:11 (Parallel theme): And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

Isaiah 30:33 (Parallel theme): For Tophet is ordained of old; yea, for the king it is prepared; he hath made it deep and large: the pile thereof is fire and much wood; the breath of the LORD, like a stream of brimstone, doth kindle it.

Psalms 68:17 (Parallel theme): The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels: the Lord is among them, as in Sinai, in the holy place.

1 Kings 22:19 (Parallel theme): And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left.

Matthew 25:31 (Parallel theme): When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

Daniel 7:22 (Judgment): Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

Jude 1:14 (Parallel theme): And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,