

Deuteronomy 32:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.

Analysis

See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me (רִאֹו עֲתָה כִּי אָנִי אָנִי)—the emphatic 'ani 'ani hu (I, even I, am He) asserts absolute monotheism. The doubled pronoun intensifies God's unique identity; hu (He) recalls "I AM" (Exodus 3:14). Isaiah echoes this: "I am he; before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me" (Isaiah 43:10). This isn't henotheism (acknowledging other gods exist but choosing one) but radical monotheism—no other gods exist, period.

I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal (אָנִי אָמִית וְאָמַת מַחְצֵת וְאָנִי אֶרְפָּא)—God possesses absolute sovereignty over life and death (amit, kill; 'achayeh, make alive), destruction and restoration (machatzti, wound; 'erpa, heal). Hannah's prayer echoes this: "The LORD kills and brings to life" (1 Samuel 2:6). **Neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand** (וְאֵין מְלֵךְ מְצִיל)—no power can rescue from God's judgment. This terrifies the impenitent but comforts believers: the hand that wounds also heals; the God who judges also saves.

Historical Context

This verse is among Scripture's clearest monotheistic declarations, foundational for Jewish (Shema: Deuteronomy 6:4), Christian (1 Corinthians 8:4-6), and Islamic theology. Ancient Near Eastern polytheism divided power among specialized deities—gods of death, healing, war, fertility. Moses declares one God controls all

domains, all history, all destinies. The verse appears in later Jewish liturgy and rabbinic discussions of divine sovereignty versus human free will.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God's absolute sovereignty over life and death inform your view of suffering and healing?
2. What comfort does God's exclusive power provide when facing circumstances beyond human control?

Interlinear Text

אָנָּה וְאָנָּה עָפָת הַרְאֵת

See

H6258

H3588

H589

H589

H1931

H369

H7200

אֱלֹהִים

now that I even I am he and there is no god

H430

עָפָדִים

H5978

H589

אֶתְתָּמָת

with me I kill

H4191

מְצַדְּךָ

and I make alive

H2421

אָרַפְתִּיךְ

I wound

H589

אָרַפְתִּיךְ

and I heal

H7495

מִלְאַחַת

out of my hand

H3027

מְצַאֵּל:

neither is there any that can deliver

H5337

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 2:6 (Parallel theme): The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up.

Hosea 6:1 (Parallel theme): Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.

Job 5:18 (Parallel theme): For he maketh sore, and bindeth up: he woundeth, and his hands make whole.

Isaiah 45:22 (References God): Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.

Isaiah 45:5 (References God): I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:

Isaiah 43:13 (Parallel theme): Yea, before the day was I am he; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?

Isaiah 46:4 (Parallel theme): And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.

Isaiah 45:18 (References God): For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.

Psalms 68:20 (References God): He that is our God is the God of salvation; and unto GOD the Lord belong the issues from death.

Isaiah 41:4 (Parallel theme): Who hath wrought and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? I the LORD, the first, and with the last; I am he.