

Deuteronomy 33:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There is none like unto the God of Jeshurun, who rideth upon the heaven in thy help, and in his excellency on the sky.

Analysis

There is none like unto the God of Jeshurun—After blessing individual tribes, Moses concludes with a hymn celebrating Israel's incomparable God. Jeshurun (upright one) is a poetic name for Israel (Deuteronomy 32:15; Isaiah 44:2), emphasizing their covenant identity, not ethnic origin. Ein ka'El Yeshurun establishes monotheistic uniqueness—Israel's God has no peer, rival, or equal among the nations' false deities.

Who rideth upon the heaven in thy help, and in his excellency on the sky—Rokhev shamayim (rider of the heavens) was a title claimed by Canaanite Baal, the storm god. Moses deliberately appropriates this imagery, asserting YHWH's supremacy over weather deities. The Hebrew shechaqim (clouds/skies) emphasizes God's transcendence and power. Unlike impotent idols, Israel's God controls nature itself, deploying creation be'ezreka (in your help)—for covenant purposes, delivering His people.

Historical Context

This verse functions as a theological climax before Moses's death narrative. The 'rider of the clouds' language directly confronts Canaanite religion, where Baal was titled 'cloud-rider' (Ugaritic texts). Moses declares YHWH's supremacy over all supposed storm gods. The poetic style resembles ancient Near Eastern divine warrior hymns but radically reinterprets them within monotheistic covenant

theology. Later, Jesus applies this cloud imagery to Himself (Daniel 7:13; Mark 14:62), claiming divine authority.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What modern 'gods' claim power over creation, and how does YHWH's uniqueness challenge those false securities?
2. How does understanding God's transcendence ('riding the heavens') affect your confidence in His ability to help you?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵין	כִּי	יְשֻׁרָּעֵן	רֹכֶב	שָׁמָן
H369	There is none like unto the God	of Jeshurun	who rideth	upon the heaven
	H410	H3484	H7392	H8064

בְּעִזָּתֶךָ	וּבְגִבְעֹתֶךָ	שָׁמְמִינִים
in thy help	and in his excellency	on the sky

H5828	H1346	H7834
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Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 10:6 (Parallel theme): Forasmuch as there is none like unto thee, O LORD; thou art great, and thy name is great in might.

Exodus 15:11 (References God): Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?

Habakkuk 3:8 (Parallel theme): Was the LORD displeased against the rivers? was thine anger against the rivers? was thy wrath against the sea, that thou didst ride upon thine horses and thy chariots of salvation?

Psalms 104:3 (Parallel theme): Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind:

Isaiah 19:1 (Parallel theme): The burden of Egypt. Behold, the LORD rideth upon a swift cloud, and shall come into Egypt: and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence, and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it.

Psalms 86:8 (References God): Among the gods there is none like unto thee, O Lord; neither are there any works like unto thy works.

Isaiah 40:18 (References God): To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?

Isaiah 40:25 (Parallel theme): To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One.

Deuteronomy 32:15 (References God): But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation.

Isaiah 66:8 (Parallel theme): Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.