

Deuteronomy 4:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God is in all things that we call upon him for?

Analysis

God's proximity—'who hath God so nigh unto them'—distinguishes Israel from all nations. The Hebrew 'qarob' (near) indicates covenant intimacy, not merely spatial closeness. Pagan deities were distant, capricious, and unapproachable; Yahweh dwells among His people, responding to prayer. This anticipates the Reformed emphasis on covenant relationship through Christ's mediation. The phrase 'in all things that we call upon him for' reveals God's comprehensive providence and prayer-hearing nature. This nearness finds ultimate fulfillment in Immanuel (Matthew 1:23) and the Spirit's indwelling (John 14:17).

Historical Context

Israel's tabernacle system (Exodus 25-40) provided unprecedented divine proximity. God's Shekinah glory dwelt in the Holy of Holies above the Ark of the Covenant. Unlike pagan temples housing lifeless idols, Israel's sanctuary hosted the living God who spoke through prophets and priests. This immediate access contrasted sharply with pagan religions requiring elaborate rituals, magic incantations, or temple prostitution to gain deity attention.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's nearness to Israel demonstrate the covenant privilege of intimate relationship with the Creator?
2. In what ways does Christ's incarnation and the Spirit's indwelling fulfill this promise of divine proximity?

Interlinear Text

קִרְבֵּי יִם אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֹא אֵשֶׁר
H3588 H4310 H1471 H1419 H834 H0 H430 H7138
For what nation is there so great
גִּידוֹל
H413 H3068 H430 H3605 H7121
unto them as the LORD our God is in all things that we call
אֱלֹהֵינוּ
H413

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 145:18 (References Lord): The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.

Psalms 34:18 (References Lord): The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Psalms 73:28 (References God): But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.

2 Samuel 7:23 (References God): And what one nation in the earth is like thy people, even like Israel, whom God went to redeem for a people to himself, and to make him a name, and to do for you great things and terrible, for thy land, before

thy people, which thou redeemedst to thee from Egypt, from the nations and their gods?

Isaiah 55:6 (References Lord): Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

Psalms 46:1 (References God): God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

James 4:8 (References God): Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

Psalms 148:14 (References Lord): He also exalteth the horn of his people, the praise of all his saints; even of the children of Israel, a people near unto him. Praise ye the LORD.

Isaiah 43:4 (Parallel theme): Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.

Deuteronomy 5:26 (References God): For who is there of all flesh, that hath heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived?