

Exodus 15:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou stretchedst out thy right hand, the earth swallowed them.

Analysis

The statement 'Thou stretchedst out thy right hand, the earth swallowed them' pictures divine gesture causing judgment. The 'earth swallowing' uses the same imagery as Korah's rebellion (Numbers 16:32), indicating permanent removal. God's outstretched hand (same gesture Moses used) accomplishes effortlessly what Egypt's entire army couldn't prevent. The imagery combines water (drowning) and earth (swallowing), emphasizing creation itself serves God's purposes.

Historical Context

The 'earth swallowing' metaphor indicates permanent removal from the land of the living. Combined with water imagery, it emphasizes total, irreversible judgment with no possibility of return.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does creation itself serving God's purposes in judgment demonstrate His comprehensive sovereignty?
2. What opposition to God's work needs the earth to 'swallow' it permanently in your circumstances?

Interlinear Text

נָטַ יְתָ	יְמֵ יָמֶךָ	תִּבְלַעַ מוֹ	אֶרֶץ:
Thou stretchedst out	thy right hand	swallowed	the earth
H5186	H3225	H1104	H776

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 15:6 (Parallel theme): Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.