

Habakkuk 3:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The sun and moon stood still in their habitation: at the light of thine arrows they went, and at the shining of thy glittering spear.

Analysis

The sun and moon stood still in their habitation (שֶׁמֶשׁ יְרֵם עַמְדָּה זְבוּלָה/yareah amad zevulah)—this directly references Joshua's long day (Joshua 10:12-13), when God stopped celestial movements at Israel's leader's request so battle could be completed. Sun and moon 'standing still in their habitation' depicts these heavenly bodies frozen in their appointed paths, obeying divine command communicated through human prayer.

At the light of thine arrows they went, and at the shining of thy glittering spear (לְאוֹר חִצְׂצָב יְמַלְכָו לְנִגְהָ בְּנֵקְן חִנִּתְקָב/chitzeycha yehalekhu lenogah beraq chaniteka)—the sun and moon moved according to God's arrows and lightning-spear. The imagery suggests divine weapons whose brilliance outshone even sun and moon, controlling their movement. God as Warrior commands both natural and celestial realms.

Historical Context

Joshua 10:12-13 records the only biblical instance of sun and moon stopping—an unprecedented miracle demonstrating God's absolute sovereignty over creation. The context was Israel's battle against the Amorite coalition; Joshua prayed for extended daylight, and God answered. This miracle became central to Israel's collective memory of God fighting for them. Habakkuk invokes this memory to encourage faith: the God who stopped celestial bodies for Joshua can certainly

accomplish His purposes against Babylon. No natural law or human power limits God's ability to save His people.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Joshua's long day demonstrate God's response to faith-filled prayer aligned with His purposes?
2. What does God's control over sun and moon teach about His sovereignty over seemingly fixed natural laws?
3. How can remembering God's extraordinary past interventions encourage bold faith in praying for His intervention today?

Interlinear Text

חָאָרֶת	לֹא	וְ	זֹבֵחַ	זֹבֵחַ	לְהַ	עַמְּדָה	יְמִינָה	שְׁמַשׁ
The sun	and moon	stood still	in their habitation	at the light	of thine arrows			
H8121	H3394	H5975	H2073	H216	H2671			
יָמַל כֹּי	לֹא גַּה	בְּבָקָר	מִנִּיתְבָּנִים					
they went	and at the shining	of thy glittering	spear					
H1980	H5051	H1300	H2595					