

Isaiah 51:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. Art thou not it that hath cut Rahab, and wounded the dragon?

Analysis

The prayer 'Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD' uses anthropomorphic language depicting God as needing arousal - actually expressing urgent longing for deliverance. The reference to 'ancient days' and 'Rahab' (Egypt, per Psalm 87:4) recalls Exodus deliverance, establishing precedent for present request. This models prayer grounded in rehearsing God's past mighty acts as basis for confidence in future intervention.

Historical Context

The 'arm of the LORD' crushed Egypt at the Red Sea and will be revealed in Christ (53:1). This prayer from exile anticipates a new exodus through return from Babylon, ultimately fulfilled in Christ delivering from sin and death.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does recounting God's 'ancient days' deliverances strengthen your prayer for present needs?
2. What does it mean to pray for God's 'arm' to awake and work powerfully on your behalf?

Interlinear Text

ע וִירִי	ע וִירִי	לְבָשִׁי	עֹז	זֶרְעִי	יְהוָה	ע וִירִי	יָמֵי
Awake	Awake	put on	strength	O arm	of the LORD	Awake	days
H5782	H5782	H3847	H5797	H2220	H3068	H5782	H3117
קַדְּמִי	דֹּרֹת		עוֹלָמִים		הָאֵל	אֶתְּ	יְהוָה
as in the ancient	in the generations		of old		H3808	H859	H1931
H6924	H1755		H5769				
הַמִּחַץ		בְּהַב		מְחוּלָּל		תַּנִּין:	
Art thou not it that hath cut		Rahab		and wounded		the dragon	
H2672		H7294		H2490		H8577	

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 52:1 (Parallel theme): Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean.

Isaiah 27:1 (References Lord): In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea.

Psalms 89:10 (Parallel theme): Thou hast broken Rahab in pieces, as one that is slain; thou hast scattered thine enemies with thy strong arm.

Isaiah 30:7 (Parallel theme): For the Egyptians shall help in vain, and to no purpose: therefore have I cried concerning this, Their strength is to sit still.

Isaiah 51:17 (References Lord): Awake, awake, stand up, O Jerusalem, which hast drunk at the hand of the LORD the cup of his fury; thou hast drunken the dregs of the cup of trembling, and wrung them out.

Psalms 44:1 (Parallel theme): We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us, what work thou didst in their days, in the times of old.

Job 26:12 (Parallel theme): He divideth the sea with his power, and by his understanding he smiteth through the proud.

Ezekiel 29:3 (References Lord): Speak, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lieth in the midst of his rivers, which hath said, My river is mine own, and I have made it for myself.

Psalms 7:6 (References Lord): Arise, O LORD, in thine anger, lift up thyself because of the rage of mine enemies: and awake for me to the judgment that thou hast commanded.

Isaiah 62:8 (References Lord): The LORD hath sworn by his right hand, and by the arm of his strength, Surely I will no more give thy corn to be meat for thine enemies; and the sons of the stranger shall not drink thy wine, for the which thou hast laboured: