

Isaiah 64:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Oh that thou wouldest rend the heavens, that thou wouldest come down, that the mountains might flow down at thy presence,

Analysis

'Oh that thou wouldest rend the heavens, that thou wouldest come down, that the mountains might flow down at thy presence.' This passionate prayer continues from chapter 63. The Hebrew 'qara' (rend/tear) expresses violent breaking through. 'Come down' (yarad) requests theophany - divine appearance. Mountains flowing recalls Sinai's trembling (Exodus 19:18).

Historical Context

This prayer for divine intervention echoes Israel's Sinai experience and anticipates the incarnation when God did 'come down.' It expresses the longing of every generation for fresh divine action.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What would it look like for God to 'rend the heavens' in your situation?
2. How has God already answered this prayer in Christ's coming?

Interlinear Text

לוא	קָרַב עֲתָה	שָׁמַיִם	יָרֵד דָּתָה
Oh	that thou wouldst rend	the heavens	that thou wouldst come down
H3863	H7167	H8064	H3381
מִפְּנֵי יְהוָה	הָרִים	תִּזְלָו:	
at thy presence	that the mountains	might flow down	
H6440	H2022	H2151	

Additional Cross-References

Mark 1:10 (Parallel theme): And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:

Revelation 20:11 (Parallel theme): And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

Psalms 68:8 (Parallel theme): The earth shook, the heavens also dropped at the presence of God: even Sinai itself was moved at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

Isaiah 63:15 (Parallel theme): Look down from heaven, and behold from the habitation of thy holiness and of thy glory: where is thy zeal and thy strength, the sounding of thy bowels and of thy mercies toward me? are they restrained?

Exodus 3:8 (Parallel theme): And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

Amos 9:13 (Parallel theme): Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt.

Psalms 46:6 (Parallel theme): The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted.

Exodus 19:11 (Parallel theme): And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org