

# Isaiah 64:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When thou didst terrible things which we looked not for, thou  
camest down, the mountains flowed down at thy presence.

## Analysis

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'When thou didst terrible things which we looked not for, thou camest down, the mountains quaked at thy presence.' Memory of past unexpected interventions grounds present hope. 'Terrible things' (yare - fear-inspiring) exceeded expectation. The Hebrew 'lo-qivinu' (we looked not for) emphasizes surprise - God exceeded their imagination.

## Historical Context

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This recalls unexpected deliverances like the Red Sea crossing, fall of Jericho, or defeat of Assyria. God's past surprises encourage prayers for new surprises.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. When has God done 'terrible things you looked not for'?

2. How does remembering divine surprises shape your expectations?

## Interlinear Text

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בַּעֲשׂוֹתֶיךָ	נוֹכָא וְת	ל א	נִקְוָה	יְבִדָּה
When thou didst	terrible things	H3808	which we looked	not for thou camest down
H6213	H3372		H6960	H3381
מִפְּנֵי יְךָ	הַרֵּי ים	נִזְלוּ:		
at thy presence	the mountains	flowed down		
H6440	H2022	H2151		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 66:5** (Parallel theme): Come and see the works of God: he is terrible in his doing toward the children of men.

**Psalms 106:22** (Parallel theme): Wondrous works in the land of Ham, and terrible things by the Red sea.

**Psalms 66:3** (Parallel theme): Say unto God, How terrible art thou in thy works! through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies submit themselves unto thee.

**Deuteronomy 10:21** (Parallel theme): He is thy praise, and he is thy God, that hath done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen.

**Habakkuk 3:3** (Parallel theme): God came from Teman, and the Holy One from mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise.