

Jeremiah 31:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name:

Analysis

God appeals to the fixed order of creation—sun by day, moon and stars by night, the sea's waves—to guarantee His covenant promises. These natural laws are utterly reliable; the sun rises every morning without fail. God stakes His covenant faithfulness on this same certainty. As long as these ordinances remain (which is forever), Israel will remain a nation before God. This is an unconditional promise grounded in God's unchanging character and sovereign control over creation.

The theological point is that God's covenant with Israel is as permanent and unbreakable as the laws of nature. Despite Israel's unfaithfulness, despite judgment and exile, God will not utterly cast them away. A remnant will always exist; God's purposes for Israel will be fulfilled. Paul develops this in Romans 11:1-2: 'Hath God cast away his people? God forbid.' God's gifts and calling are irrevocable (Romans 11:29).

This grounding of covenant promise in creation's order connects God's redemptive work with His work as Creator. The God who sustains the cosmos by the word of His power (Hebrews 1:3) is the same God who keeps covenant promises. His word in creation and His word in promise are equally reliable. When God speaks, whether to command light to shine or to promise salvation, His word accomplishes what He intends (Isaiah 55:10-11).

Historical Context

During the exile, it appeared God had abandoned Israel. The temple was destroyed, the land empty, the people scattered. Yet Jeremiah insists God's covenant remains. The physical ordinances of sun, moon, and sea testified that God had not abandoned His promises. This encouraged the faithful remnant to trust God's word despite contrary appearances. Faith believes God's promise even when circumstances seem to contradict it.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's faithfulness in maintaining creation's order assure us of His faithfulness to keep covenant promises?
2. What does it mean that God's covenant with Israel is as permanent as the sun and moon—how does this inform our understanding of God's purposes for ethnic Israel?
3. How should creation's reliable order increase our confidence in God's promises to believers in Christ?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֲלֵיכֶם נָתַן לְךָ שֶׁמֶשׁ לֹא וְרַבָּה יְמִינָה

H3541 Thus saith The LORD which giveth the sun for a light by day

H559

H3068

H5414

H8121

H216

H3119

לֹא יְלֹהֶה לֹא וְרַבָּה יְכֹכֶב יְמִינָה

and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night

H2708

H3394

H3556

H216

H3915

רָגַע אֶבְרָא וְתִימָן כָּלְדָי יְהוָה הַלְּכָדָה

which divideth the sea thereof roar when the waves The LORD of hosts

H7280

H3220

H1993

H1530

H3068

H6635

:שְׁמֹן:

is his name

H8034

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 51:15 (References Lord): But I am the LORD thy God, that divided the sea, whose waves roared: The LORD of hosts is his name.

Jeremiah 10:16 (References Lord): The portion of Jacob is not like them: for he is the former of all things; and Israel is the rod of his inheritance: The LORD of hosts is his name.

Isaiah 63:12 (Parallel theme): That led them by the right hand of Moses with his glorious arm, dividing the water before them, to make himself an everlasting name?

Jeremiah 32:18 (References Lord): Thou shewest lovingkindness unto thousands, and recompensest the iniquity of the fathers into the bosom of their children after them: the Great, the Mighty God, the LORD of hosts, is his name,

Jeremiah 46:18 (References Lord): As I live, saith the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts, Surely as Tabor is among the mountains, and as Carmel by the sea, so shall he come.

Jeremiah 50:34 (References Lord): Their Redeemer is strong; the LORD of hosts is his name: he shall throughly plead their cause, that he may give rest to the land, and disquiet the inhabitants of Babylon.

Deuteronomy 4:19 (References Lord): And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven.

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