

Jeremiah 32:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:

Analysis

After completing the purchase, Jeremiah prays, beginning with worship of God as Creator. 'Thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm'—this grounds everything that follows. The God who spoke creation into existence by His word has unlimited power. The phrase 'there is nothing too hard for thee' (lo yippale mimeka kol davar, לֹא־יִפְּלֵא מִמֶּכָּה כָּל־דָּבָר) literally means 'nothing is too wonderful/difficult/extraordinary for you.' No situation exceeds God's ability; no problem lacks solution; no promise is impossible to fulfill.

This confession of God's omnipotence frames Jeremiah's struggle to understand how the field he just purchased has any value when Babylon will conquer the land (vv. 24-25). He doesn't doubt God's promise—he purchased the field in obedience—but he struggles to comprehend how God will fulfill it. This models mature faith: we trust God even when we don't understand His ways. Isaiah 55:8-9 reminds us that God's thoughts and ways are higher than ours.

Paul echoes this confidence in God's power: with God 'all things are possible' (Matthew 19:26); He 'is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think' (Ephesians 3:20). When God promises something, His power guarantees its fulfillment regardless of obstacles. When we doubt whether God can fulfill His promises, we should remember: He created everything that exists. Compared to that, what is too hard?

Historical Context

Jeremiah lived through catastrophic events—the destruction of Jerusalem, the temple's razing, the people's exile. From human perspective, these events seemed to negate God's covenant promises. How could God be faithful when His city was destroyed, His temple in ruins, His people enslaved? Jeremiah's appeal to God's creative power reminds himself and us: the God who made everything can certainly restore what was lost. Nothing is too hard for Him.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does remembering God as Creator strengthen our confidence in His promises, especially when circumstances seem impossible?
2. What promises of God do you struggle to believe are possible—and how does 'nothing is too hard for thee' address those doubts?
3. How can we hold together trusting God's promises (like Jeremiah did in buying the field) while honestly expressing our struggles to understand His ways?

Interlinear Text

אֶהָא	אֲדֹנָי	יְהוָה	הֵנִי הָ	אֲנִי הָ	עָשׂוּ יָדְךָ	אֶת
Ah	Lord				behold thou hast made	
H162	H136	H3068	H2009	H859	H6213	H853
וּבְזִרְעֲךָ	הַגָּד וְלֹ	בְּכֹחְךָ	הָאָרֶץ	וְאֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם		
arm	by thy great	power	and the earth	the heaven		
H2220	H1419	H3581	H776	H853	H8064	
דָּבָר:	כֹּל	מְמַךְ	יָפֵל אֶלָּא	הַנִּשְׁטוּי הָ		
and there is nothing			too hard	and stretched out		
H1697	H3605	H4480	H6381	H5186	H3808	

Additional Cross-References

Luke 1:37 (References God): For with God nothing shall be impossible.

Jeremiah 32:27 (References God): Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?

Genesis 18:14 (References Lord): Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.

Job 42:2 (Parallel theme): I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee.

Matthew 19:26 (References God): But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

Exodus 20:11 (Creation): For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Jeremiah 27:5 (Creation): I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are upon the ground, by my great power and by my outstretched arm, and have given it unto whom it seemed meet unto me.

Luke 18:27 (References God): And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.

2 Kings 19:15 (Creation): And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said, O LORD God of Israel, which dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth.

Isaiah 45:12 (Creation): I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded.

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