

# Job 38:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And brake up for it my decreed place, and set bars and doors,

## Analysis

---

"And brake up for it my decreed place, and set bars and doors." God established boundaries for the sea through divine decree (chuqqi, חֻקִּי, "my decree/statute"). The imagery of bars (beriach, בְּרִיחַ) and doors (delatayim, דְּלָתַיִם) personifies the sea as something powerful that must be restrained. This echoes Genesis 1:9-10 where God gathered waters into seas. The passage affirms God's absolute sovereignty over chaos and nature's most powerful forces. Unlike ancient myths where gods struggled to control chaotic waters, Yahweh effortlessly commands nature's boundaries.

## Historical Context

---

The sea represented chaos and danger in ancient Near Eastern thought. Babylonian mythology featured Tiamat, the sea goddess, in cosmic battle. Israel's God needed no struggle—His word alone established permanent boundaries. This would profoundly reassure Job and readers facing life's chaotic circumstances.

## Related Passages

---

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

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

---

1. How does God's sovereign control over chaotic waters speak to the chaos you experience in life?
2. What boundaries has God established in your life that you should respect rather than resist?

## Interlinear Text

---

וַאֲשׁוּבָה	עַל יוֹ	דִּקְרִי	וְאָשֵׁי יָם	בָּר יָם	וּדְלָתִים:
And brake up	H5921	for it my decreed	place and set	bars	and doors
H7665		H2706	H7760	H1280	H1817

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Psalms 104:9** (Parallel theme): Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth.

**Jeremiah 5:22** (Parallel theme): Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it?

**Job 26:10** (Parallel theme): He hath compassed the waters with bounds, until the day and night come to an end.