

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, חֲקָקִ, "my decree/statute"). The imagery of bars (beriach, בְּרִיחָ) 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

וְלֹא־תִּשְׁבַּר	בְּרִית	תִּשְׁתַּחַת	עַל	תִּשְׁתַּחַק	תִּשְׁתַּחַק	תִּשְׁתַּחַק	תִּשְׁתַּחַק	תִּשְׁתַּחַק
And brake up	H5921	for it my decreed		place and set	bars		and doors	

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.

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