

Job 38:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Analysis

When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? God continues His creation discourse with this stunning poetic image of celestial worship at earth's founding. "Morning stars" (kokhvei boker, כָּכָבִים בָּקָר) likely refers to angelic beings rather than literal stars, paralleled by "sons of God" (benei Elohim, בְּנֵי אֱלֹהִים), a phrase elsewhere denoting angels (Job 1:6, 2:1). The parallelism suggests these are synonymous terms for heavenly beings who witnessed creation.

"Sang together" (ranan yachad, רָנַן יָחָד) uses a verb meaning to shout for joy or cry out in jubilation, with yachad emphasizing unity—they sang in chorus. "Shouted for joy" (heri'u, הָרִיעוּ) intensifies the image: a loud cry of celebration or triumph. The scene portrays creation as cosmic worship service, with angels as choir celebrating God's creative work. Their joy reflects creation's goodness—everything God made was very good (Genesis 1:31).

This verse has profound theological implications. It reveals that creation existed before humanity—angels witnessed earth's founding, establishing that God's purposes transcend human history. It also shows that creation evokes worship from those who perceive God's wisdom and power rightly. When Job questions God's governance, God reminds him that celestial beings who witnessed creation's beginning worshiped—should not Job trust the Creator whom angels praise? Revelation 4-5 echoes this imagery, depicting heavenly beings worshiping God for creation and redemption.

Historical Context

The phrase "sons of God" (benei Elohim) in Job's prologue clearly denotes angelic beings who appear before God's throne (Job 1:6, 2:1). Ancient Near Eastern literature sometimes used similar terminology for divine council members—lesser deities or servants attending the high god. Biblical usage demythologizes this concept: "sons of God" aren't gods but created spirit beings serving the one true God.

The image of stars or celestial beings singing reflects ancient cosmology's sense of wonder at the heavens. Psalm 19:1-4 declares that heavens declare God's glory, their voice going out through all earth. While ancient pagans often deified stars and planets, Scripture consistently portrays them as God's creation, witnesses to His majesty rather than objects of worship.

Early Christian interpretation saw Christological significance here. Christ as eternal Word was present at creation (John 1:1-3, Colossians 1:16), and Hebrews 1:6 quotes God commanding angels to worship Christ at His incarnation. The angelic joy at creation's beginning anticipates their announcement of redemption's beginning: "Glory to God in the highest" at Christ's birth (Luke 2:13-14). Creation and redemption both evoke heavenly worship, both display God's wisdom and power.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does the angels' worship at creation reveal about the goodness and glory of God's creative work?
2. How does knowing that angels witnessed creation and rejoiced provide perspective on human existence and purpose?
3. What is the significance of God reminding Job that creation evoked worship from those who witnessed it?
4. How does this image of cosmic worship at creation's beginning connect to the heavenly worship scenes in Revelation?
5. In what ways should creation's beauty and order still evoke worship and wonder in believers today?

Interlinear Text

בְּנֵי	כָּל	לְלִלְלָה	בְּקָר	כָּזְבָּן	וְפָדֵד	בְּנֵי
sang	together	stars	When the morning	shouted	H3605	and all the sons
H7442	H3162	H3556	H1242	H7321		H1121

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 5:11 (Parallel theme): And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

Job 1:6 (References God): Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.

Revelation 22:16 (Parallel theme): I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

Psalms 104:4 (Parallel theme): Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire:

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