

Job 9:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Which removeth the mountains, and they know not: which overturneth them in his anger.

Analysis

Job describes God's sovereign power over creation: 'Which removeth the mountains, and they know not: which overturneth them in his anger.' The verb 'removeth' (ataq, אָטַק) means to move, proceed, or advance. Mountains—symbols of permanence and stability (Psalm 125:1-2)—yield to God's power without even knowing it happened. The phrase 'they know not' emphasizes divine sovereignty's effortless exercise. God 'overturneth' (haphak, הָפַךְ) them in His anger (aph, אַף), recalling earthquake imagery.

Job's description serves his argument: if God can overturn mountains unknowingly, what chance does Job have to defend himself? The same power that maintains creation can unmake it. This isn't praise but lament—God's omnipotence makes contending with Him impossible. Job moves toward the legal metaphor that will dominate chapters 9-10: he cannot take God to court because the defendant is also judge, jury, and executioner.

The imagery anticipates eschatological judgment when mountains flee from God's presence (Revelation 6:14-16, 16:20). What seems permanent to us—mountains, social structures, our own lives—exists only by divine permission. This should humble us (we are nothing) while assuring us (God who sustains all can sustain us through any trial).

Historical Context

Palestinian geography featured mountains as dominant topographical feature—Mount Hermon, mountains of Ephraim, hill country of Judea. Earthquakes occasionally devastated the region (Amos 1:1, Zechariah 14:5). Job uses natural catastrophe as metaphor for God's sovereign power that none can resist.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing that what seems permanent to us (mountains) is temporary to God reshape our priorities?
2. What does God's effortless power over creation teach about our inability to resist or escape His will?
3. In what ways should awareness of divine omnipotence both terrify (in judgment) and comfort (in salvation)?

Interlinear Text

הַמַּעֲתֵי יָרְדֵּן	הַרִימֹת	וְלֹא	יָדְעוּ	אֲשֶׁר
Which removeth	the mountains	H3808	and they know	H834
H6275	H2022		H3045	
וְהַפֹּכֶה	בְּאַפּוֹ:			
not which overturneth	them in his anger			
H2015	H639			

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 27:51 (Parallel theme): And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

Luke 21:11 (Parallel theme): And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.

Revelation 11:13 (Parallel theme): And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.

Habakkuk 3:10 (Parallel theme): The mountains saw thee, and they trembled: the overflowing of the water passed by: the deep uttered his voice, and lifted up his hands on high.

Revelation 6:14 (Parallel theme): And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

Matthew 21:21 (Parallel theme): Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.