

# Job 9:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

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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, ሦኑ) 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, ኃቻ) them in His anger (aph, እቻ), 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

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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

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**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

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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

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וְאֶלְעָזָר יְמִינֵי בְּפָעַת יְקַנֵּן

Which removeth the mountains and they know

H6275

H2022

H3808

H3045

H834

בְּאֶפְרַיִם מִבְּפַעַת

not which overturneth them in his anger

H2015

H639

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.

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