

Job 9:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Which shaketh the earth out of her place, and the pillars thereof tremble.

Analysis

Job continues: 'Which shaketh the earth out of her place, and the pillars thereof tremble.' The verb 'shaketh' (ragaz, רָגַץ) means to quake, tremble, or be agitated. Ancient cosmology conceived earth resting on pillars or foundations (1 Samuel 2:8, Psalm 75:3), which God can destabilize at will. The earth's 'pillars' (ammud, אַמּוּד) 'tremble' (palas, פָּלָס), creating image of earthquake shaking creation's very foundations.

Job's imagery describes divine power that can undo creation itself. The God who established earth's foundations (Job 38:4-6) can equally shake them. This cosmic power makes Job's legal case hopeless—how does one argue with the Author of physical law who can suspend or revise those laws? The asymmetry isn't merely strength (strong human versus stronger God) but categories (creature versus Creator).

The New Testament develops this imagery: God's voice shakes not only earth but heaven (Hebrews 12:26), removing what can be shaken to reveal what cannot be shaken—His kingdom. Job sees only God's power to destroy; the gospel reveals God's power also to establish what cannot be shaken. The same divine sovereignty that terrifies in judgment comforts in salvation.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern creation myths often included cosmic combat—gods battling chaos forces. Biblical cosmology transforms this: YHWH alone creates and sustains, needing no conflict to establish order. His shaking of earth's foundations demonstrates sovereign power, not conflict with rivals. This monotheism makes Job's problem more acute—there's no evil deity to blame.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does understanding God as both Creator and Sustainer affect our response when He seems to shake our foundations?
2. What does Job's focus on divine power to destroy teach about his limited perspective lacking resurrection hope?
3. In what ways does Hebrews 12:26-29 transform our understanding of God's foundation-shaking power?

Interlinear Text

בְּשִׁקְרָגֶת יְהֹוָה אֶת־אָדָם מִמְּלֹקֶת הָאָדָם וְעַמְּדָת יְהֹוָה עַמְּדָת יְהֹוָה תִּתְּפַלְּצֵן!

Which shaketh the earth out of her place and the pillars thereof tremble

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Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 12:26 (Parallel theme): Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.

Isaiah 2:21 (Parallel theme): To go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.

Psalms 75:3 (Parallel theme): The earth and all the inhabitants thereof are dissolved: I bear up the pillars of it. Selah.

Haggai 2:6 (Parallel theme): For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land;

Isaiah 2:19 (Parallel theme): And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.

Job 26:11 (Parallel theme): The pillars of heaven tremble and are astonished at his reproof.

Psalms 114:7 (Parallel theme): Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob;

Haggai 2:21 (Parallel theme): Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I will shake the heavens and the earth;