

Joshua 4:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty: that ye might fear the LORD your God for ever.

Analysis

The miracle's purpose—"That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty: that ye might fear the LORD your God for ever"—has dual audiences: universal witness and Israel's reverence. God's mighty acts serve both evangelistic (showing His power to nations) and sanctifying (producing fear among His people) purposes. The comprehensive phrase 'all the people of the earth' shows God's concern extends beyond Israel to global gospel witness. Miracles demonstrate divine power, prompting both conversion and reverence.

Historical Context

The miracle's impact on surrounding nations is documented in 5:1—Canaanite kings' hearts melted hearing of the crossing. This terror aided conquest, as demoralized enemies faced Israel. Similarly, Rahab's confession (2:9-11) showed reports of God's works generating faith. This pattern continues—the church's testimony of God's saving work attracts some while hardening others. Miracles never merely display power but serve redemptive purposes in God's sovereign plan.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How do God's mighty works in your life provide witness to unbelievers?
2. What balance between evangelistic testimony and internal reverence should God's works produce?

Interlinear Text

לְמַעַן	כִּי	עָתָה	כִּי	כָּל	עַמִּים	כִּי	כָּל	בָּאָרֶץ	אַתָּה	בָּיִת
H4616		H3045		H3605		H5971		H776	H853	H3027
might know				That all the people			of the earth		the hand	
הַיְהוּ	כִּי	יְהִי	הַ	מִזְרָחָה	אֵת	לְמַעַן	הַיְהוּ	כִּי	יְבָאָתָם	אַתָּה
of the LORD	H3588			that it is mighty	H1931		H4616		that ye might fear	H853
H3068				H2389			H3372			
בְּמִימָיו	כִּי	אֱלֹהִיכָּם	יְהִי הָ							
of the LORD		your God	H3605	for ever						
H3068		H430		H3117						

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 89:13 (Parallel theme): Thou hast a mighty arm: strong is thy hand, and high is thy right hand.

Psalms 106:8 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power to be known.

Exodus 15:16 (References Lord): Fear and dread shall fall upon them; by the greatness of thine arm they shall be as still as a stone; till thy people pass over, O LORD, till the people pass over, which thou hast purchased.

Exodus 14:31 (References Lord): And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses.

1 Chronicles 29:12 (Parallel theme): Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.

2 Kings 19:19 (References God): Now therefore, O LORD our God, I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD God, even thou only.

Deuteronomy 6:2 (References God): That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged.

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