

Mark 13:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.

Analysis

The stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken—The Greek *asteres* (ἀστέρες, stars) falling and *dynameis* (δυνάμεις, powers/authorities) being shaken continues the cosmic imagery. In Jewish cosmology, 'powers in heaven' could refer to angelic beings governing nations (Daniel 10:13, 20) or to the heavenly bodies themselves, which were sometimes associated with spiritual forces (Ephesians 6:12).

Jesus builds on Daniel 7:13-14, where the Son of Man receives eternal dominion. The shaking of celestial powers signifies the overthrow of all opposition to God's kingdom—both earthly and spiritual. Paul echoes this in Colossians 2:15, where Christ 'disarmed the rulers and authorities' (*tas archas kai tas exousias*). The verb *saleuthēsontai* (σαλευθήσονται, 'shall be shaken') appears in Hebrews 12:26-27, contrasting shakeable created things with the unshakeable kingdom believers receive.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern texts regularly used astronomical phenomena to describe political revolution. When Babylon fell to Persia (539 BC), contemporary texts described cosmic portents. Jesus's audience would understand this as covenant lawsuit language—God indicting unfaithful Israel through the prophet-like-Moses (Deuteronomy 18:15) before executing judgment through Roman armies.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What 'powers' in your life seem unshakeable but will ultimately fall before Christ's authority?
2. How does the cosmic scope of Christ's victory encourage you when facing spiritual opposition?
3. Why is it significant that even heavenly powers tremble before the returning Son of Man?

Interlinear Text

καὶ οἱ ἀστέρες τοῦ οὐρανοῦ ἔσονται ἐκπίπτοντες, καὶ
And ^{G3588} **the stars** ^{G3588} **heaven** **shall** **fall** **And**
^{G2532} ^{G792} ^{G3772} ^{G2071} ^{G1601} ^{G2532}

αἱ δυνάμεις αἱ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῦ σαλευθήσονται
^{G3588} **the powers** ^{G3588} **that are in** ^{G3588} **heaven** **shall be shaken**
^{G1411} ^{G1722} ^{G3772} ^{G4531}

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 34:4 (Parallel theme): And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree.