

Mark 4:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.

Analysis

A storm arose: 'there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.' The verb 'arose' (γίνεται, present tense) dramatically portrays storm's sudden development. 'Great storm' (λαῖλαψ μεγάλη μεγάλη—literally 'great tempest') indicates violent squall. Waves 'beat into' (ἐπέβαλλεν) the boat—aggressive, pounding action. The result: ship 'now full' (ῆδη γεμίζεσθαι)—filling with water, sinking. Experienced fishermen recognized mortal danger. This natural crisis becomes theological lesson: storms test faith. The storm's timing—right after Jesus' command—teaches that obedience doesn't guarantee smooth sailing. Following Christ brings trials.

Historical Context

The Sea of Galilee sits 700 feet below sea level, surrounded by hills. Cool air from Mediterranean descends through valleys, colliding with warm air over water, producing sudden, violent storms. Ancient sources describe these squalls' ferocity. Even veteran fishermen like Peter, Andrew, James, and John feared such storms. The phrase 'filling with water' indicates boat near sinking—life-threatening situation. Ancient boats lacked modern safety equipment or rescue options. This was genuine crisis, not mere inconvenience. The danger makes disciples' fear understandable and Jesus' power more remarkable.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does this storm teach that obedience to Christ doesn't exempt from trials but positions us for experiencing His power?
2. What 'storms' in your life threaten to sink you, and where is Jesus in relation to those storms?
3. How do you respond when following Christ leads into rather than away from difficulty?

Interlinear Text

καὶ γίνεται λαῖλαψ ἀνέμου μεγάλη τὰ δὲ κύματα
And there arose storm of wind a great G3588 and the waves
G2532 G1096 G2978 G417 G3173 G1161 G2949

ἐπέβαλλεν εἰς τὸ πλοῖον ὥστε αὐτό ἦδη γεμίζεσθαι
beat into G3588 the ship so that it now full
G1911 G1519 G4143 G5620 G846 G2235 G1072

Additional Cross-References

Job 1:19 (Parallel theme): And, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

Jonah 1:4 (Parallel theme): But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken.