

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' (ἤδη 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	ἤδη	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.