

Mark 4:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?

Analysis

The disciples 'feared exceedingly' (ἐφοβήθησαν φόβον μέγαν—'feared a great fear') and asked: 'What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?' Their fear shifted from storm to Jesus—not terror but awe, reverent wonder at His power. The question 'What manner of man?' (Τίς ἄρα οὗτός ἐστιν) expresses astonishment. They realized Jesus transcends ordinary humanity. The answer: He's God incarnate. The phrase 'even the wind and sea obey' recognizes unprecedented authority. Only Yahweh commands creation (Psalm 104:3-4; 107:25-29). The miracle demands response: acknowledge Jesus' deity and submit to His lordship.

Historical Context

Jewish theology firmly maintained that only God controls seas. Creation psalms celebrate Yahweh's sovereignty over waters (Psalm 65:7; 89:9; 93:3-4; 107:23-32). Job emphasizes God alone commands creation (Job 38:8-11). The disciples, steeped in Old Testament, recognized Jesus' act as divine prerogative. This miracle, along with walking on water (Mark 6:45-52), revealed Jesus as Yahweh incarnate. Early church used this miracle apologetically—proving Jesus' deity to Jewish audiences. Church creeds affirm Jesus as Creator (John 1:3; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:2), making storm-calming theologically consistent. The question 'What manner of man?' finds answer: God-man, possessing both human and divine natures.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' authority over creation demonstrate His right to command every area of your life?
2. What fear needs to shift from circumstances to reverent awe of Jesus' power and deity?
3. How should recognizing Jesus as Creator and Sustainer affect your daily trust and obedience?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἐφοβήθησαν	φόβον	μέγαν	καὶ	ἔλεγον	πρὸς	
And	they feared	exceedingly	G3173	And	said	to	
G2532	G5399	G5401		G2532	G3004	G4314	
ἀλλήλους	Τίς	ἄρα	οὗτός	ἐστιν	ὅτι	καὶ	ὁ
another	What	manner of man	this	is	that	And	G3588
G240	G5101	G686	G3778	G2076	G3754	G2532	
ἄνεμος	καὶ	ἡ	θάλασσα	ὑπακούουσιν	αὐτῷ		
the wind	And	G3588	the sea	obey	him		
G417	G2532		G2281	G5219	G846		

Additional Cross-References

Luke 8:25 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him.

Psalms 89:7 (Parallel theme): God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.

Job 38:11 (Parallel theme): And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?

Matthew 8:27 (Parallel theme): But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!

1 Samuel 12:24 (Parallel theme): Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.

Mark 5:33 (Parallel theme): But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth.

Matthew 14:32 (Parallel theme): And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.