

Psalms 102:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For he hath looked down from the height of his sanctuary;
from heaven did the LORD behold the earth;

Analysis

God looking down from His heavenly sanctuary (qodesh) emphasizes His transcendence and sovereign vantage point. 'From heaven did the LORD behold the earth' assures that nothing escapes His notice. This divine surveillance isn't threatening but comforting—God sees His people's suffering and will intervene. The Reformed doctrine of God's omniscience and providence guarantees that He governs all events for His glory and His people's good. Christ, seated at God's right hand (Heb 1:3), now exercises this heavenly authority.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern peoples often believed their gods were limited to specific geographical regions. Israel's God, by contrast, rules from heaven over all the earth, able to see and act everywhere simultaneously.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God's heavenly perspective on your circumstances differ from your earthly viewpoint?
2. What comfort do you find in knowing that Christ intercedes for you from God's throne?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	הֵ שָׁקִיף	מִמַּר וּם	קֹדֶשׁ ו	! הִ הֵ ה
H3588	For he hath looked down	from the height	of his sanctuary	did the LORD
	H8259	H4791	H6944	H3068
מִשָּׁמַיִם	אֶל	אֶרֶץ	הַבִּיט:	
from heaven	H413	the earth	behold	
H8064		H776	H5027	

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 26:15 (Parallel theme): Look down from thy holy habitation, from heaven, and bless thy people Israel, and the land which thou hast given us, as thou swarest unto our fathers, a land that floweth with milk and honey.

Psalms 14:2 (References Lord): The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God.

Job 22:12 (Parallel theme): Is not God in the height of heaven? and behold the height of the stars, how high they are!

1 Kings 8:39 (Parallel theme): Then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and do, and give to every man according to his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou, even thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men;)

1 Kings 8:43 (Parallel theme): Hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to thee for: that all people of the earth may know thy name, to fear thee, as do thy people Israel; and that they may know that this house, which I have builded, is called by thy name.

2 Chronicles 16:9 (References Lord): For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

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