

Psalms 104:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth his going down.

Analysis

God appointed the moon for seasons (mo'adim, also meaning appointed times/festivals), and the sun knows its setting. Heavenly bodies operate on precise schedules set by God, governing time's passage. The moon's phases determined Israel's calendar and festivals, making it essential for worship timing. The sun's predictable rising and setting demonstrates reliable divine order. This astronomical precision points to God's faithfulness—as surely as sun and moon follow their courses, God keeps His promises. Christ's resurrection on the first day (Sunday) established a new creation week.

Historical Context

Israel's religious calendar was lunar-based, making the moon crucial for determining festival dates. Understanding celestial bodies as divine appointments, not deities (as in pagan religion), distinguished Israel's cosmology.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do the reliable patterns of sun and moon strengthen your trust in God's faithfulness to His promises?
2. What spiritual 'seasons' has God appointed in your life that you need to discern and honor?

Interlinear Text

הָעֶשֶׂה	יָרֵחַ	לְמוֹעֵד יָמִים	שֶׁשֶׁן	יָדַע	מְבֹאֵוֹ:
He appointed	the moon	for seasons	the sun	knoweth	his going down
H6213	H3394	H4150	H8121	H3045	H3996

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 31:35 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name: