

Psalms 104:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He looketh on the earth, and it trembleth: he toucheth the hills, and they smoke.

Analysis

God looks on the earth and it trembles; He touches mountains and they smoke. This awe-inspiring imagery portrays God's overwhelming power over creation. Mere divine attention causes earth's trembling, and His slightest touch makes mountains smoke (recalling Sinai, Exod 19:18). Creation responds to Creator with appropriate fear. This majesty evokes worship, not terror, for believers who know God's grace. Christ demonstrated similar authority, with nature obeying His commands (Mark 4:39-41). The Reformed emphasis on God's transcendent majesty balances His immanent care.

Historical Context

Volcanic activity and earthquakes were known in the ancient Near East. Attributing these to God's direct activity (rather than impersonal forces) emphasized His ongoing involvement with creation.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does contemplating God's awesome power over creation deepen your worship?
2. What balance do you maintain between reverencing God's majesty and approaching Him as Father?

Interlinear Text

הִמָּב יֵט	לְ אֶרֶץ	וַתִּרָעַד	יְיָ ע	בְּהָרֵי יִם	וַיִּשְׁשָׁנוּ:
He looketh	on the earth	and it trembleth	he toucheth	the hills	and they smoke
H5027	H776	H7460	H5060	H2022	H6225

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 144:5 (Parallel theme): Bow thy heavens, O LORD, and come down: touch the mountains, and they shall smoke.

Exodus 19:18 (Parallel theme): And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.

Habakkuk 3:10 (Parallel theme): The mountains saw thee, and they trembled: the overflowing of the water passed by: the deep uttered his voice, and lifted up his hands on high.

Psalms 114:7 (Parallel theme): Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob;