

# Psalm 104:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

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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

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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

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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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

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לְאָרֶץ	תִּתְرַעֵת	יָגַע	בָּרָקִים	לְאַשְׁנָה:	
He looketh	on the earth	and it trembleth	he toucheth	the hills	and they smoke
H5027	H776	H7460	H5060	H2022	H6225

## Additional Cross-References

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**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;