

# Psalm 106:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wondrous works in the land of Ham, and terrible things by the Red sea.

## Analysis

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This verse continues cataloging God's works that Israel forgot (from verse 21). 'Wondrous works in the land of Ham' refers to the ten plagues in Egypt. 'Ham' was Noah's son and ancestor of Egyptians through his son Mizraim (Genesis 10:6). 'Terrible things by the Red sea' uses *yare* (יָרֵא), meaning awesome, fearful, or terror-inducing deeds—the splitting of the sea and drowning of Pharaoh's army. The term 'terrible' emphasizes that God's works inspire reverent fear. These events should have produced permanent awe and faithfulness, yet Israel forgot within weeks. This demonstrates that natural human response to God's works is forgetfulness and ingratitude, not enduring worship.

## Historical Context

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The 'terrible things' at the Red Sea (Exodus 14) became Israel's central deliverance narrative, celebrated in the Song of the Sea (Exodus 15) and memorialized in annual festivals. Yet the generation that witnessed it died in the wilderness due to unbelief (Numbers 14:29-33). God's most awesome acts cannot overcome human hardness of heart apart from regenerating grace. This historical lesson warns every generation against presuming that past spiritual experiences guarantee present faithfulness.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. Why do even 'terrible' (awesome) demonstrations of God's power fail to produce lasting faith?
2. What is the relationship between seeing God's works and maintaining faith in Him?
3. How can churches help members remember and celebrate God's 'terrible things'?

## Interlinear Text

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סְמִינָה: יָם עַל כִּי תְּרַא וְתַּבְּאֵן בְּאֶרֶץ פְּלָאוֹת

Wondrous works in the land of Ham and terrible things H5921 sea by the Red

H6381 H776 H2526 H3372 H3220 H5488

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 78:51** (Parallel theme): And smote all the firstborn in Egypt; the chief of their strength in the tabernacles of Ham:

**Psalms 105:23** (Parallel theme): Israel also came into Egypt; and Jacob sojourned in the land of Ham.