

Psalms 106:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He rebuked the Red sea also, and it was dried up: so he led them through the depths, as through the wilderness.

Analysis

This verse recounts God's response to Israel's Red Sea panic. 'He rebuked the Red sea' uses *gaar* (גָּעַר), meaning to rebuke or reprimand—the same word used for rebuking demons or natural forces (Mark 4:39). God speaks to the sea as to a servant, commanding obedience. 'It was dried up' shows instant response to divine command. 'He led them through the depths, as through the wilderness' compares the seabed crossing to walking on dry land. This demonstrates God's absolute sovereignty over creation—sea and land alike obey His word. The 'rebuke' imagery also suggests God overcomes chaos and opposition to save His people, prefiguring Christ's authority over nature and spiritual forces.

Historical Context

The Red Sea crossing (Exodus 14) was Israel's defining deliverance, celebrated in the Song of the Sea (Exodus 15). God's 'rebuke' of the sea demonstrated His power over Egyptian gods (who included sea deities) and over chaos itself. The psalmist's description emphasizes the miraculous nature of walking through sea depths 'as through the wilderness,' highlighting the impossibility apart from divine intervention.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What does God's rebuke of natural forces teach about His sovereignty over creation?
2. How does the Red Sea crossing prefigure baptism and deliverance from sin?
3. In what ways does God 'rebuke' obstacles and opposition to accomplish His redemptive purposes?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּגַעַר	בַּיָּם	ס וַיַּבֵּשׁ	וְיָבֵשׁ	וַיִּזְלֶיךָ
He rebuked	sea	the Red	also and it was dried up	
H1605	H3220	H5488	H2717	H1980
בְּתִהֹמֹת	כַּמִּדְבָּר:			
them through the depths	as through the wilderness			
H8415	H4057			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 18:15 (Parallel theme): Then the channels of waters were seen, and the foundations of the world were discovered at thy rebuke, O LORD, at the blast of the breath of thy nostrils.

Nahum 1:4 (Parallel theme): He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers: Bashan languisheth, and Carmel, and the flower of Lebanon languisheth.

Psalms 78:13 (Parallel theme): He divided the sea, and caused them to pass through; and he made the waters to stand as an heap.