

Psalm 107:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.

Analysis

This verse describes God's healing method. 'He sent his word, and healed them' emphasizes the power of God's word. 'Sent' (shalach, שָׁלַח) means to dispatch or send forth. God's word goes forth with power to accomplish His purposes (Isaiah 55:10-11). 'And delivered them from their destructions' uses malat (מִלְאַת), meaning to escape or slip away from—they're rescued from destruction. Jesus healed with His word ('Be clean,' 'Rise and walk'), demonstrating divine authority. The Word (Logos) made flesh (John 1:14) brings ultimate healing from sin's destruction. God's word creates, judges, saves, and heals.

Historical Context

God's word healed throughout Scripture: speaking created the cosmos (Genesis 1); God's word through prophets brought healing (2 Kings 5:10-14 - Elisha's word to Naaman). Jesus' healings by word demonstrated His deity—only God's word has inherent creative power. The centurion recognized this: 'Speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed' (Matthew 8:8). In the new covenant, the gospel word brings spiritual healing (1 Peter 2:24).

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does God's word possess power to heal and deliver?
2. In what ways does Jesus as the Word incarnate fulfill this verse?
3. How does the gospel 'word' bring healing from sin's destruction?

Interlinear Text

מִשְׁחִיתּוֹתֶם: וְיִמְלֹט בָּרָז וְשָׁלַח
He sent his word and healed them and delivered them from their destructions
H7971 H1697 H7495 H4422 H7825

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 8:8 (Word): The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.

Psalms 147:15 (Word): He sendeth forth his commandment upon earth: his word runneth very swiftly.

Psalms 147:3 (Parallel theme): He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.

Psalms 56:13 (Parallel theme): For thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?

Psalms 49:15 (Parallel theme): But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah.