

Psalm 107:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble.

Analysis

This verse vividly describes the storm's terror. 'They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths' depicts waves lifting ships skyward then plunging to troughs—roller-coaster motion. 'Their soul is melted because of trouble' uses moog (מֹוג), meaning to dissolve, melt, or faint. Terror liquefies courage. This describes existential dread, not mere fear—facing death in uncontrollable circumstances. The verse captures human helplessness against overwhelming natural forces. When creation's power is unleashed, human strength dissolves. Only the Creator's intervention can save from creation's fury.

Historical Context

Ancient seafarers faced genuine mortal danger—wooden ships in storms often sank with all hands lost. Jonah's ship nearly broke apart (Jonah 1:4). Paul experienced shipwreck three times and a night in the deep (2 Corinthians 11:25). Acts 27 describes Paul's harrowing shipwreck voyage. These weren't exaggerations—oceanic storms were deadly. Modern technology hasn't eliminated this danger—creation's forces still exceed human control.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does facing overwhelming natural forces reveal human frailty and dependence?
2. What does 'their soul is melted' teach about the effect of terror on human courage?
3. How should creation's power drive us to acknowledge the Creator's greater power?

Interlinear Text

يַעַל וּ	שְׁמַיִם	יָרַד וּ	תַּהַוֵּם וְתַ	בְּפַשְׁתָּם
They mount up	to the heaven	they go down	again to the depths	their soul
H5927	H8064	H3381	H8415	H5315

בְּבָעֵם	תַּתְמֹכֵךְ
because of trouble	is melted
H7451	H4127

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 22:14 (Parallel theme): I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels.

Psalms 119:28 (Parallel theme): My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen thou me according unto thy word.