

Psalms 114:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The sea saw it, and fled: Jordan was driven back.

Analysis

"The sea saw it, and fled: Jordan was driven back." This verse personifies creation responding to divine presence. Hayam ra'ah vayanos (the sea saw and fled). Ra'ah (see/look) and nus (flee/escape) picture the Red Sea observing God's approach and fleeing in terror. Exodus 14:21-22 describes God dividing the sea, creating dry ground for Israel. Hayarden yisov l'achor (the Jordan turned backward). Sov (turn) and achor (backward) describe the Jordan River reversing course. Joshua 3:14-17 records the Jordan stopping, heaping up, allowing Israel to cross on dry ground. Both miracles—Red Sea parting and Jordan stopping—demonstrated God's absolute control over creation. Nature itself obeys divine command, serving His redemptive purposes.

Historical Context

The Red Sea crossing (Exodus 14) occurred immediately after the exodus, with Pharaoh's army pursuing. God's dividing the sea allowed Israel to escape, then drowned pursuing Egyptians. This decisive victory ended Egyptian threat and secured Israel's freedom. Moses and Miriam led Israel in celebrating song (Exodus 15). Forty years later, the Jordan River crossing (Joshua 3) marked entry into Canaan. The Jordan stopped flowing, allowing the entire nation (potentially 2-3 million people) to cross on dry ground during flood season. Both miracles echoed creation—God's Spirit hovering over waters (Genesis 1:2), God separating waters (Genesis 1:6-10). They demonstrated YHWH as Creator who commands nature.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How do these miracles (Red Sea, Jordan) demonstrate God's sovereignty over creation?
2. What "seas" or "rivers" (obstacles, impossibilities) has God parted in your life?
3. How does remembering God's past miraculous interventions strengthen faith for present impossibilities?

Interlinear Text

הַיָּם	רָאָה	וַיִּנָּס	הַיַּרְדֵּן	וַיִּסָּב	לְאַחֲרָיו:
The sea	saw	it and fled	Jordan	was driven	back
H3220	H7200	H5127	H3383	H5437	H268

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 77:16 (Parallel theme): The waters saw thee, O God, the waters saw thee; they were afraid: the depths also were troubled.

Exodus 14:21 (Parallel theme): And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

Habakkuk 3:15 (Parallel theme): Thou didst walk through the sea with thine horses, through the heap of great waters.

Isaiah 63:12 (Parallel theme): That led them by the right hand of Moses with his glorious arm, dividing the water before them, to make himself an everlasting name?

Psalms 106:9 (Parallel theme): He rebuked the Red sea also, and it was dried up: so he led them through the depths, as through the wilderness.

Psalms 104:7 (Parallel theme): At thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of thy thunder they hasted away.

Psalms 74:15 (Parallel theme): Thou didst cleave the fountain and the flood: thou driedst up mighty rivers.

Exodus 15:8 (Parallel theme): And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood upright as an heap, and the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea.