

Psalms 114:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The mountains skipped like rams, and the little hills like lambs.

Analysis

"The mountains skipped like rams, and the little hills like lambs." The vivid imagery continues personifying creation: Heharim rakdu kh'eilim (the mountains skipped like rams). Rakad (skip/dance/leap) pictures energetic, joyful movement. Eilim (rams) are strong, vigorous adult male sheep. Geva'ot kiv'nei tzon (hills like lambs of the flock). Geva'ah (hill); keves (lamb); tzon (flock). Mountains and hills, normally immovable, skip and leap like playful sheep. This likely references Sinai theophany (Exodus 19:16-19), where the mountain quaked violently at God's descent. Some also see reference to the earth trembling when the ark returned or when God gave victories. The imagery conveys creation's joyful response to divine presence—nature worships through exuberant movement.

Historical Context

At Sinai, "the whole mount quaked greatly" (Exodus 19:18) when God descended in fire. The people trembled with fear (Exodus 19:16, 20:18-21). This earthquake authenticated divine presence and authority. Elijah later experienced earthquake, wind, and fire at Sinai (1 Kings 19:11-12). Earthquakes accompanied various theophanies: giving the Law, Christ's crucifixion (Matthew 27:51), resurrection (Matthew 28:2), and will accompany His return (Zechariah 14:4-5, Revelation 16:18). Psalm 29 similarly describes God's voice shaking wilderness and stripping forests. Nature's violent response to divine presence underscores God's power and holiness.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does creation's response (seas fleeing, mountains skipping) reveal about God's majesty and power?
2. How should believers respond to God's presence—with fear, joy, worship, or all three?
3. In what ways does creation currently "groan" (Romans 8:22) awaiting full redemption?

Interlinear Text

אָזֶן:	כְּבָנִי	גַּבּוּ וְתָ	כָּאִילִים	בְּקָדָד 1	בְּרִים
The mountains	skipped	like rams	and the little hills	like lambs	
H2022	H7540	H352	H1389	H1121	H6629

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 19:18 (Parallel theme): And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.

Exodus 20:18 (Parallel theme): And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.

Habakkuk 3:6 (Parallel theme): He stood, and measured the earth: he beheld, and drove asunder the nations; and the everlasting mountains were scattered, the perpetual hills did bow: his ways are everlasting.

Revelation 20:11 (Parallel theme): And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

Psalms 18:7 (Parallel theme): Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth.

Habakkuk 3:8 (Parallel theme): Was the LORD displeased against the rivers? was thine anger against the rivers? was thy wrath against the sea, that thou didst ride upon thine horses and thy chariots of salvation?

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