

Psalms 144:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Bow thy heavens, O LORD, and come down: touch the mountains, and they shall smoke.

Analysis

Bow thy heavens, O Lord, and come down (הַזְבְּחֵנָה הַשְׁמִינִית וְתַךְ) —Hat shmekha ('bend your heavens') recalls theophanies where God tears through the veil separating heaven and earth (Exodus 19:18, Isaiah 64:1). Vtered (and descend)—divine invasion into earthly conflict. **Touch the mountains, and they shall smoke**—Sinai imagery (Exodus 19:18, Psalm 104:32).

David, overwhelmed by enemies, doesn't merely pray for help but summons divine intervention in cosmic proportions. He needs more than tactical assistance—he needs God Himself to descend in theophanic power. This prayer finds ultimate fulfillment in the Incarnation (heaven bowing down in Christ, John 1:14) and will be consummated at the Second Coming (Matthew 24:30, Revelation 19:11-16).

Historical Context

David likely prayed this during military crises when surrounded by superior forces (2 Samuel 5:17-25 against Philistines, or later conflicts). The language echoes Moses at Sinai and anticipates apocalyptic visions in Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Revelation. God's 'coming down' always means judgment for enemies and deliverance for His people.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What situations in your life require not just incremental help but God 'bowing the heavens' and intervening dramatically?
2. How did Christ's incarnation fulfill this prayer for God to 'come down,' and how will His return complete it?
3. Why does corporate or national crisis sometimes drive believers to pray with urgency and cosmic scope they neglect in comfortable times?

Interlinear Text

בָּרוּ יְמִינְךָ וְתָמִיד שְׁמַע יְהָוָה
O LORD Bow thy heavens and come down touch the mountains

H3068

H5186

H8064

H3381

H5060

H2022

וְיִשְׁרְאֵל:

and they shall smoke

H6225

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 104:32 (Parallel theme): He looketh on the earth, and it trembleth: he toucheth the hills, and they smoke.

Psalms 18:9 (Parallel theme): He bowed the heavens also, and came down: and darkness was under his feet.

Exodus 19:18 (References Lord): 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.

