

Psalms 147:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He sendeth forth his commandment upon earth: his word runneth very swiftly.

Analysis

He sendeth forth his commandment upon earth: his word runneth very swiftly. This verse transitions from agricultural provision to divine communication. The Hebrew hasholéach imrato aretz (הַשְׁלֹּחַ אֶתְּנָתָּה אֶלְּזָהָר) uses imrato (אֶתְּנָתָּה), meaning His utterance, decree, or spoken word. God's word is not abstract theology but active agent—hasholéach (sends forth) portrays dynamic communication that accomplishes purpose.

"His word runneth very swiftly" (עַד-מִהְבָּה יָרַץ בָּרָךְ, ad meherah yarutz devaro, *Isaiah 55:11*) personifies divine speech as a messenger running (yarutz) with great speed (meherah). Isaiah 55:11 declares God's word "shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please." The word runs swiftly because it cannot be hindered—what God speaks immediately begins fulfillment.

In this context, God's word governs both natural phenomena (vv. 16-18 describe snow, frost, ice responding to His command) and covenant relationship (v. 19 mentions statutes given to Israel). The same creative word that spoke light into existence (Genesis 1:3) sustains creation and directs history. John 1:1-3 identifies this eternal Word (Logos) as Christ Himself, through whom "all things were made." Jesus embodied swift divine action: "He commanded even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him" (Mark 1:27).

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern peoples understood divine words as powerful, effective speech. Kings issued decrees that subjects must obey; gods spoke and nature responded. However, Israel's theology insisted only Yahweh's word possessed inherent creative and governing power. Unlike pagan deities whose words might be resisted or fail, Yahweh's word accomplishes its purpose with swift certainty. This assurance sustained Israel through exile and restoration—God's promised word of return would surely be fulfilled.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does understanding God's word as active agent (not merely information) change how you read Scripture?
2. What decrees has God 'sent forth' in your life that are already 'running swiftly' toward fulfillment, even if you don't see results yet?
3. In what ways does Jesus, as the incarnate Word, demonstrate the swift effectiveness of divine communication?

Interlinear Text

בְּשַׁלְמָה	אָמְרָתָה	עַל	אֶרֶץ	עַד	הַבָּה	מִן	רַץ
He sendeth forth	his commandment	upon earth		H5704	very swiftly		runneth
H7971	H565	H776			H4120		H7323
דְּבָרָוּ							
his word							
H1697							

Additional Cross-References

Job 37:12 (Parallel theme): And it is turned round about by his counsels: that they may do whatsoever he commandeth them upon the face of the world in the earth.

2 Thessalonians 3:1 (Word): Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:

Matthew 8:13 (Parallel theme): And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

Psalms 33:9 (Parallel theme): For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.

Psalms 107:25 (Parallel theme): For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof.

Psalms 68:11 (Word): The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it.

Psalms 107:20 (Word): He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.

Job 34:29 (Parallel theme): When he giveth quietness, who then can make trouble? and when he hideth his face, who then can behold him? whether it be done against a nation, or against a man only:

Jonah 1:4 (Parallel theme): But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken.

