

Psalms 147:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who covereth the heaven with clouds, who prepareth rain for the earth, who maketh grass to grow upon the mountains.

Analysis

Who covereth the heaven with clouds, who prepareth rain for the earth, who maketh grass to grow upon the mountains. This verse celebrates God's providential control over the water cycle, which ancient peoples observed but couldn't fully explain. The Hebrew hamekhaseh shamayim be'avim (המְכַסֵּה שָׁמַיִם בְּאַבִּים) portrays God actively covering the heavens with clouds—what we now understand as evaporation, condensation, and atmospheric dynamics is here attributed directly to divine agency.

The purpose is agricultural: "**prepareth rain for the earth**" (hameikhin la'aretz matar, הַמְּכִין לְאָרֶץ מָטָר). The verb *kun* means to establish, make firm, or prepare—rain doesn't happen randomly but through God's careful provision for creation's needs. This rain then causes "**grass to grow upon the mountains**" (hamatzmi'ach harim chatzir, הַמַּצְמִיחַ הָרִים חַצִּיר), even in seemingly barren highland regions where direct human agriculture is impossible.

Theologically, this verse connects God's cosmic sovereignty (numbering stars, v. 4) to His earthly provision (feeding creation, v. 9). The same God who manages galaxies orchestrates weather patterns to nourish vegetation. Jesus would later point to this providential care as evidence of God's faithfulness to His children: "Consider the lilies... if God so clothe the grass of the field... shall he not much more clothe you?" (Matthew 6:28-30).

Historical Context

Ancient Palestinian agriculture depended entirely on seasonal rains, as irrigation infrastructure was limited. The 'early rains' (October-November) softened soil for plowing and planting; 'latter rains' (March-April) matured crops before harvest. Drought meant famine. Israel's covenant included promises of rain for obedience and drought for disobedience (Leviticus 26:3-4, 19-20; Deuteronomy 11:13-17). Thus, regular rainfall was understood as covenant faithfulness, a sign that Yahweh remembered His people.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does understanding natural processes (weather, ecology) as God's direct provision affect your daily gratitude and trust?
2. In what ways does God 'prepare rain' for spiritually dry areas of your life, and are you positioned to receive it?
3. What does it mean that God makes grass grow even on mountains—places where human cultivation seems impossible?

Interlinear Text

מַתְּרֵן לֹא כֵּן בְּמַכְּפָה הַשְׁמָמָה יְמִינָה בְּנֵבָה יְמִינָה בְּפִתְּחָה יְמִינָה מַתְּרֵן

Who covereth **the heaven** **with clouds** **who prepareth** **for the earth** **rain**

H3680

H8064

H5645

H3559

H776

H4306

חֲצִירָה בְּרֵם בְּמִזְמָה יְמִינָה

to grow

upon the mountains

who maketh grass

H6779

H2022

H2682

Additional Cross-References

Job 5:10 (Parallel theme): Who giveth rain upon the earth, and sendeth waters upon the fields:

Genesis 9:14 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud:

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