

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* (הִמְכָּסֶה שָׁמַיִם בְּעָבִים) 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*, הִמְכִּין לָאָרֶץ 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*, הִמְצַמִּיחַ הָרִים חֲצִיר), 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

הַמְכֹסֵה	שָׁמַיִם	בְּעָבִים	הַמְכֵּן	לְאֶרֶץ	מֵטָר
Who covereth	the heaven	with clouds	who prepareth	for the earth	rain
H3680	H8064	H5645	H3559	H776	H4306
הַמֵּצֵמַה	הָרִים	חֲצִיר:			
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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