

Psalms 18:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

At the brightness that was before him his thick clouds passed,
hail stones and coals of fire.

Analysis

From the brightness before God, clouds broke through with hail and coals of fire. The Hebrew 'nogah' (brightness) contrasts with previous darkness, suggesting God's glory breaking through. Hail and fire recall the Egyptian plagues (Exodus 9:24). This theophany uses storm imagery to portray God's powerful intervention. Reformed theology sees God using creation as His arsenal to deliver His people and judge enemies.

Historical Context

References the Exodus plagues where God used natural phenomena as weapons against Egypt, establishing precedent for divine warrior imagery.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do you see God's hand in natural events?
2. What does God's use of creation teach about His sovereignty?

Interlinear Text

מִן גִּיה	בְּגֵדוֹ	עָבַד יוֹ	עָבַר וֹ	בָּרָד
At the brightness	H5048	that was before him his thick clouds	passed	hail
H5051		H5645	H5674	H1259
אֲשֶׁר	אֶבְרִי			
stones and coals	of fire			
H1513	H784			

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 10:11 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, as they fled from before Israel, and were in the going down to Beth-horon, that the LORD cast down great stones from heaven upon them unto Azekah, and they died: they were more which died with hailstones than they whom the children of Israel slew with the sword.

Revelation 16:21 (Parallel theme): And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

Matthew 17:5 (Parallel theme): While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

Matthew 17:2 (Parallel theme): And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.