

Psalms 18:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yea, he sent out his arrows, and scattered them; and he shot out lightnings, and discomfited them.

Analysis

God sent out arrows and scattered enemies; lightning flashed and routed them. The Hebrew 'chets' (arrows) and 'baraq' (lightning) are divine weapons. God fights for His people, making natural forces His arsenal. This anticipates Ephesians 6's spiritual warfare where God provides armor and weapons. Reformed theology affirms that human battles ultimately reflect cosmic spiritual conflict between God and evil powers.

Historical Context

Lightning was understood as divine arrows in ancient thought. This imagery draws on holy war tradition where God fought for Israel (Joshua 10:11).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do you see your struggles as part of larger spiritual warfare?
2. In what ways do you rely on God to fight your battles?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּשְׁלַח	חֲצִי	וַיִּפֹּץ	וּבִרְקָאִים	כֵּן
Yea he sent out	his arrows	and scattered	lightnings	them and he shot out
H7971	H2671	H6327	H1300	H7232
וַיִּהְיוּ:				
and discomfited				
H2000				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 144:6 (Light): Cast forth lightning, and scatter them: shoot out thine arrows, and destroy them.

Habakkuk 3:11 (Light): The sun and moon stood still in their habitation: at the light of thine arrows they went, and at the shining of thy glittering spear.

Isaiah 30:30 (Light): And the LORD shall cause his glorious voice to be heard, and shall shew the lighting down of his arm, with the indignation of his anger, and with the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, and tempest, and hailstones.

Psalms 77:17 (Parallel theme): The clouds poured out water: the skies sent out a sound: thine arrows also went abroad.

Job 6:4 (Parallel theme): For the arrows of the Almighty are within me, the poison whereof drinketh up my spirit: the terrors of God do set themselves in array against me.

Deuteronomy 32:23 (Parallel theme): I will heap mischiefs upon them; I will spend mine arrows upon them.

Deuteronomy 32:42 (Parallel theme): I will make mine arrows drunk with blood, and my sword shall devour flesh; and that with the blood of the slain and of the captives, from the beginning of revenges upon the enemy.

Joshua 10:10 (Parallel theme): And the LORD discomfited them before Israel, and slew them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, and chased them along the way that goeth up to Beth-horon, and smote them to Azekah, and unto Makkedah.

Numbers 24:8 (Parallel theme): God brought him forth out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn: he shall eat up the nations his enemies, and shall break their bones, and pierce them through with his arrows.

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