

Psalms 33:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses.

Analysis

He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses. David celebrates God's sovereign control over creation, specifically His power over waters—gathering seas into heaps and storing ocean depths. This demonstrates divine omnipotence and providential governance over nature's most powerful, chaotic elements.

He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap (Hebrew *kones*—collect, gather; *ned*—heap, pile) recalls Genesis creation when God separated waters from land (Genesis 1:9-10). Also echoes Exodus when God heaped up Red Sea waters, allowing Israel to cross (Exodus 15:8). God's power to heap waters demonstrates His sovereignty over what humans cannot control. Seas represent chaos, danger, uncontrollable power in ancient Near Eastern thought. That God gathers these into heaps shows His absolute authority over all creation's forces.

He layeth up the depth in storehouses (Hebrew *noten*—give, place; *tehom*—deep, ocean depths; *'otsar*—storehouse, treasury) presents ocean depths as God's stored resources. Hebrew *tehom* recalls primordial deep from Genesis 1:2, suggesting God's control extends even to chaotic cosmic forces. Storehouses imagery implies God manages ocean depths as resources under His governance—like treasures in royal treasury, ready for His purposes.

Reformed theology emphasizes God's meticulous providence—He governs not only moral and spiritual realms but physical creation down to minutest detail. No part

of creation operates independently of divine oversight. God's control over seas and depths assures believers that if He governs nature's most powerful forces, He certainly governs their circumstances. Nothing is outside His sovereign care.

Historical Context

Ancient Israelites both feared and marveled at sea. Most were not seafaring people; seas represented danger, chaos, unknown depths. Other ancient Near Eastern religions personified seas as deities or chaotic forces needing appeasement. By contrast, Israel's God created seas, controls them, uses them for His purposes (Jonah's storm, Jesus calming sea).

Heaping waters echoes Exodus deliverance—God's most definitive Old Testament saving act. When Israelites sang after crossing Red Sea, they celebrated God making waters stand as heap (Exodus 15:8). David invokes this heritage, reminding Israel that same God who delivered their ancestors controls all waters. Christians see deeper typology—baptism waters through which God brings His people to new life.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God's control over creation's most powerful forces (seas, depths) comfort you regarding your uncontrollable circumstances?
2. What does imagery of God gathering waters into heaps teach about His sovereignty over apparent chaos?
3. How does recognizing that God stores ocean depths as His treasures affect your view of natural world?
4. In what ways does God's meticulous providence over physical creation assure His care for your spiritual life?

5. How can remembering God's past acts of heaping waters (Exodus) strengthen faith for present challenges?

Interlinear Text

כִּנָּה	כַּיֵּד	יַי	הַיָּם	נִתַּן
He gathereth	together as an heap	the waters	of the sea	he layeth up
H3664	H5067	H4325	H3220	H5414
בְּאוֹצָר וְ	תְּהוֹמוֹת:			
in storehouses	the depth			
H214	H8415			

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 15:8 (Parallel theme): And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood upright as an heap, and the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea.

Joshua 3:16 (Parallel theme): That the waters which came down from above stood and rose up upon an heap very far from the city Adam, that is beside Zaretan: and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, even the salt sea, failed, and were cut off: and the people passed over right against Jericho.

Joshua 3:13 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests that bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of Jordan, that the waters of Jordan shall be cut off from the waters that come down from above; and they shall stand upon an heap.

Job 26:10 (Parallel theme): He hath compassed the waters with bounds, until the day and night come to an end.

Proverbs 8:29 (Parallel theme): When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth:

Jeremiah 5:22 (Parallel theme): Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a

perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it?

Habakkuk 3:15 (Parallel theme): Thou didst walk through the sea with thine horses, through the heap of great waters.

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