

Psalm 33:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.

Analysis

For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast. David declares God's creative power—His mere word brings reality into existence instantly and establishes it permanently. This verse affirms ex nihilo creation and divine sovereignty through simple, elegant parallelism.

For he spake, and it was done (Hebrew 'amar—say, speak; hayah—be, become) points to Genesis creation account where God repeatedly spoke creation into existence: And God said, Let there be light: and there was light (Genesis 1:3). No struggle, no labor, no process—just divine fiat. God's word is intrinsically creative and efficacious. What God speaks immediately comes into being. This demonstrates not only power but effortless power—God doesn't exert Himself or strain; He simply speaks and reality conforms to His will.

He commanded, and it stood fast (Hebrew tsavah—command, order; 'amad—stand, endure, remain) emphasizes both creation's immediacy and permanence. God's command not only brings things into existence but establishes them firmly. Hebrew 'amad suggests stability, endurance. Creation doesn't merely pop into existence and then fade; it stands fast, remaining stable according to God's ordering. This speaks to providence—God not only creates but sustains. Creation's ongoing existence depends on His continued will.

Reformed theology emphasizes God's absolute sovereignty displayed in creation. He creates by mere word (no pre-existing matter or assistance needed), and

creation obeys immediately (no resistance or delay). This establishes pattern for all God's works—His decrees accomplish His purposes infallibly. What God determines comes to pass. This grounds Christian confidence: if God's word created universe from nothing, His word will accomplish salvation for His elect. Divine promises are as certain as creation itself.

Historical Context

Hebrew understanding of God's word differs from Greek philosophy's logos. Greek logos was often impersonal principle or reason. Hebrew dabar is active, powerful, personal—God's word accomplishes what it announces. Isaiah 55:11 declares: My word shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please. This active view of divine word pervades Scripture.

New Testament identifies Jesus as this creative Word. John 1:1-3 declares the Word was God and all things were made by Him. Hebrews 1:3 says Jesus upholds all things by word of His power. Colossians 1:16-17 affirms all things were created by Him and in Him all things consist. The same Word who spoke creation into existence became flesh to accomplish new creation—redemption of sinners. God's creative word guarantees His redemptive word.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does God's effortless creation by mere word affect your understanding of His ability to handle your problems?
2. What does it mean that God's command makes creation stand fast—how does this relate to providence and sustaining?
3. In what ways does God's creative word (spoke and it was done) parallel His redemptive word (gospel promises)?

4. How does recognizing Jesus as the creative Word deepen your appreciation of His deity and power?
5. What confidence does God's sovereign word provide regarding His ability to accomplish His purposes in your life?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵת אָמַר יְהוָה וְאָתָה
 H3588 H1931 For he spake H1961 H1931 and it was done he commanded
 H559 H6680

וְעַמְדָה:
 and it stood fast
 H5975

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 1:3 (Parallel theme): And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

Psalms 33:6 (Parallel theme): By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

Revelation 4:11 (Parallel theme): Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Hebrews 11:3 (Parallel theme): Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

Hebrews 1:3 (Parallel theme): Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;