

Psalm 46:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.

Analysis

The chaotic waters--'roar and be troubled,' mountains 'shake with the swelling thereof'--continue the imagery of cosmic upheaval. The Hebrew *hamah* (roar) suggests violent, threatening noise. 'Selah' marks a pause for reflection on this terrifying yet faith-affirming picture.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern mythology often portrayed the sea as a chaos monster threatening creation. Israel's faith transformed this: the sea was God's creation, under His control even when threatening.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do the 'roaring waters' of life test our trust in God as refuge?
2. What does the 'Selah' pause invite us to consider after contemplating chaos?

Interlinear Text

רֹאשׁוֹ	מִתְהַרְתָּר	וְיָמָם	רֹאשׁוֹ	בְּרֹאשׁ
thereof roar	and be troubled	Though the waters	shake	though the mountains
H1993	H2560	H4325	H7493	H2022
בְּגָאֵת	סֶלָה			
with the swelling	thereof Selah			
H1346	H5542			

Additional Cross-References

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?

Nahum 1:5 (Parallel theme): The mountains quake at him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at his presence, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein.

Micah 1:4 (Parallel theme): And the mountains shall be molten under him, and the valleys shall be cleft, as wax before the fire, and as the waters that are poured down a steep place.

Revelation 16:20 (Parallel theme): And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

Isaiah 5:3 (Parallel theme): And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard.

Psalms 18:4 (Parallel theme): The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.

Job 38:11 (Parallel theme): And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?

Matthew 7:25 (Parallel theme): And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

