

# Psalms 48:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou breakest the ships of Tarshish with an east wind.

## Analysis

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God breaks 'the ships of Tarshish with an east wind.' Tarshish ships represented the height of maritime technology and commercial power. The 'east wind' from the desert symbolizes divine judgment throughout Scripture. The mightiest human achievements are fragile before God's breath.

## Historical Context

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Tarshish (probably Spain) was associated with distant, wealthy trading expeditions. Ships of Tarshish represented human commerce and ambition at their greatest. God's destruction of them declares His supremacy over human achievement.

## Related Passages

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**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. What are the 'ships of Tarshish' in our culture--symbols of human power and achievement?
2. How does God's 'east wind' humble what humans most pride themselves on?

## Interlinear Text

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בָּר וּמִ	קֶדֶד יָם	תָּ שִׁב ר	אָנִי וְת	תַּרְשִׁישׁ:
wind	with an east	Thou breakest	the ships	of Tarshish
H7307	H6921	H7665	H591	H8659

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 18:17** (Parallel theme): I will scatter them as with an east wind before the enemy; I will shew them the back, and not the face, in the day of their calamity.

**1 Kings 22:48** (Parallel theme): Jehoshaphat made ships of Tharshish to go to Ophir for gold: but they went not; for the ships were broken at Ezion-geber.