

Psalm 48:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou breakest the ships of Tarshish with an east wind.

Analysis

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

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

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

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

תַּרְשִׁישׁ: אָנָי וְתַּשְׁבֵּר קְדִימָה בָּרָן
wind with an east Thou breakest the ships of Tarshish

H7307

H6921

H7665

H591

H8659

Additional Cross-References

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.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org