

Psalm 65:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

By terrible things in righteousness wilt thou answer us, O God of our salvation; who art the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off upon the sea:

Analysis

God answering 'by terrible things in righteousness' reveals that divine deliverance often comes through fearsome displays of power. The phrase 'God of our salvation' identifies YHWH as deliverer. His saving acts extend to 'all the ends of the earth,' anticipating gospel's universal reach. 'Confidence of all the earth' shows creation's dependence on the Creator.

Historical Context

The 'terrible things' likely reference exodus deliverance, conquest of Canaan, or David's military victories—all involving God's fearsome intervention. These historical acts ground Israel's confidence and testify to watching nations.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How do God's 'terrible' acts of judgment serve purposes of salvation?

2. What does God's being 'confidence of all the earth' mean for missions and evangelism?

Interlinear Text

וְתָהַנְּתָן תְּבִלָּת בְּאַתְּנָתְנָה אֱלֹהִים כִּי שְׁעָרָה
 By terrible things in righteousness wilt thou answer us O God of our salvation

H3372 H6664 H6030 H430 H3468

מְבָטָה כְּלֵל קְצִינִי אֶצְבָּע אֶלְעָם עַל־יָם
 who art the confidence of all the ends of the earth upon the sea

H4009 H3605 H7099 H776 H3220

רְחִקִּים:

and of them that are afar off

H7350

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 10:21 (References God): He is thy praise, and he is thy God, that hath done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen.

Isaiah 45:22 (Salvation): Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.

Psalms 66:3 (References God): Say unto God, How terrible art thou in thy works! through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies submit themselves unto thee.

Psalms 45:4 (Righteousness): And in thy majesty ride prosperously because of truth and meekness and righteousness; and thy right hand shall teach thee terrible things.

Isaiah 66:19 (Parallel theme): And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal, and Javan, to the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles.

Psalms 22:27 (Parallel theme): All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.

Romans 2:5 (Righteousness): But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

Revelation 16:5 (Righteousness): And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.

Isaiah 51:5 (Salvation): My righteousness is near; my salvation is gone forth, and mine arms shall judge the people; the isles shall wait upon me, and on mine arm shall they trust.

Isaiah 60:5 (Parallel theme): Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee.