

Psalm 66:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Say unto God, How terrible art thou in thy works! through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies submit themselves unto thee.

Analysis

The psalmist calls all creation to acknowledge God's terrifying power in His works. The Hebrew 'nora' (terrible) conveys awesome reverence rather than fear, emphasizing God's majestic sovereignty. This divine power is so overwhelming that even enemies, in grudging submission, must acknowledge His supremacy—a foretaste of Philippians 2:10-11 where every knee bows to Christ.

Historical Context

Psalm 66 is a communal hymn of praise likely sung after a significant deliverance, possibly from exile. The congregation recounts God's mighty acts in Israel's history as evidence of His continued faithfulness.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing God's terrible power in creation lead you to worship rather than fear?

2. In what ways have you seen God's power cause even His enemies to submit, whether willingly or unwillingly?
3. How does the assurance of God's sovereign power over all opposition strengthen your faith in difficult times?

Interlinear Text

מְעַשׁ יְהָוָה	נוֹךְ אָמֵר וְאַלְהִים לְמַה	How terrible art thou in thy works	unto God say	מְעַשׁ יְהָוָה
H4639	H3372	H4100	H430	H559
shall thine enemies	submit 1. צָבֵר בְּ	of thy power through the greatness	unto God say	מְעַשׁ יְהָוָה
H341	H3584	H5797	H7230	

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 18:44 (Parallel theme): As soon as they hear of me, they shall obey me: the strangers shall submit themselves unto me.

Psalms 65:5 (References God): 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:

Psalms 81:15 (Parallel theme): The haters of the LORD should have submitted themselves unto him: but their time should have endured for ever.

Psalms 47:2 (Parallel theme): For the LORD most high is terrible; he is a great King over all the earth.

Isaiah 2:19 (Parallel theme): And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.

Jeremiah 10:10 (References God): But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.

