

Psalms 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

Psalms 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

Psalms 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

אָמַר ו	לֵי אֱלֹהִים	מַה	נוֹכָא	א	מַעֲשֵׂי יְיָ
Say	unto God	H4100	How terrible		art thou in thy works
H559	H430		H3372		H4639
בְּרָב	עֲזֶרְךָ	וְכִפְּשׁוּ	לְךָ	אֹיְבֶיךָ:	
through the greatness	of thy power	submit	H0	shall thine enemies	
H7230	H5797	H3584		H341	

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.

