

Psalm 68:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O God, thou art terrible out of thy holy places: the God of Israel is he that giveth strength and power unto his people. Blessed be God.

Analysis

God is 'terrible out of thy holy places'—His sanctuary reveals both beauty and fearsome holiness. The 'God of Israel' gives strength and power 'unto his people'—divine empowerment for living. 'Blessed be God' concludes with doxology, the only appropriate response to contemplating God's character. Holiness inspires awe, covenant relationship provides strength, and both lead to blessing God. Worship culminates in ascribing glory to God Himself.

Historical Context

The temple's Holy of Holies contained God's manifest presence—beautiful yet so holy that unauthorized entry meant death. This 'terrible' holiness protected God's glory while providing a way for His people to approach Him through prescribed means.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does understanding God's holiness ('terrible') enhance rather than diminish your desire to worship?
2. What specific strength and power has God given you for fulfilling your calling?
3. How can you cultivate a lifestyle of continually 'blessing God' throughout daily activities?

Interlinear Text

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|-------------------|----------|------------------------|-----------------|-----------|-------|
| thou art terrible | O God | out of thy holy places | the God | of Israel | H1931 |
| H3372 | H430 | H4720 | H410 | H3478 | |
| is he that giveth | strength | and power | unto his people | Blessed | O God |
| H5414 | H5797 | H8592 | H5971 | H1288 | H430 |

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 29:11 (Blessing): The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace.

Isaiah 40:29 (Parallel theme): He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

Colossians 1:11 (Parallel theme): Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

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 66:5 (References God): Come and see the works of God: he is terrible in his doing toward the children of men.

Nehemiah 1:5 (References God): And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments:

Zechariah 10:12 (Parallel theme): And I will strengthen them in the LORD; and they shall walk up and down in his name, saith the LORD.

Philippians 4:13 (Parallel theme): I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Isaiah 45:21 (References God): Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me.

Isaiah 40:31 (Parallel theme): But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.