

Psalm 68:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The earth shook, the heavens also dropped at the presence of God: even Sinai itself was moved at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

Analysis

The theophany at Sinai—earth shaking, heavens dropping rain—demonstrates God's transcendent power breaking into creation. 'The earth shook' (Exodus 19:18) and 'the heavens also dropped' recalls provision of manna and water. 'Sinai itself was moved' emphasizes that even the mountain, symbol of permanence, trembles before God's presence. This revelation established the covenant and gave the law, marking Israel as God's people. The physical manifestations authenticated divine presence and commanded reverent fear.

Historical Context

Mount Sinai's theophany (Exodus 19-20) was Israel's foundational religious experience, confirming God's power, holiness, and covenant commitment. This event established the Torah as divine revelation, not mere human wisdom.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How should the awesome display of God's power at Sinai shape your approach to worship and Scripture?
2. What does it mean that mountains 'melt' before God—how does this speak to His authority over all creation?
3. In what ways does reverent fear enhance rather than diminish joy in God's presence?

Interlinear Text

אָרֶץ	שָׁקַע	אֶת־שְׁמָמָן	שָׁמָמָן	תָּמָגֵל	מִפְנֵי	אֱלֹהִים
The earth	shook	H637	the heavens	also dropped	at the presence	of God
H776	H7493		H8064	H5197	H6440	H430
זִהְוָה	סִינָי	מִפְנֵי	אֱלֹהִים	אֱלֹהִים	יִשְׂרָאֵל	
itself	even Sinai	at the presence	of God	of God	of Israel	
H2088	H5514	H6440	H430	H430	H3478	

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 19:18 (Sin): And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.

Exodus 19:16 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled.

Isaiah 45:3 (References God): And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel.

Psalms 77:18 (Parallel theme): The voice of thy thunder was in the heaven: the lightnings lightened the world: the earth trembled and shook.

Psalms 41:13 (References God): Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting. Amen, and Amen.

Psalms 68:35 (References God): 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.

Hebrews 12:26 (Parallel theme): Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.

Psalms 114:7 (References God): Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob;

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