

Psalms 74:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou didst cleave the fountain and the flood: thou driedst up mighty rivers.

Analysis

The psalm celebrates God's power: "Thou didst cleave the fountain and the flood: thou driedst up mighty rivers" (Hebrew *atah vaqata ma-yan va-nachal atah hovashta nahrot eytan*). God "cleaves" (opens) fountains and "dries up" floods—sovereign control over water. This recalls Moses striking the rock (Exodus 17:6, Numbers 20:11) and Israel crossing the Red Sea (Exodus 14) and Jordan (Joshua 3). The impossible becomes possible when God acts. Nature obeys its Creator.

Historical Context

Water miracles demonstrated God's supremacy over creation. Ancient Near Eastern myths depicted water deities (Yam, Tiamat) opposing creator gods. The Bible counters: Yahweh sovereignly commands all creation, including water. Jesus's water miracles (walking on water, calming storm, water to wine) demonstrated divine authority. Revelation 21:6 offers "living water" freely—ultimate satisfaction.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do God's past miracles (biblical and personal) strengthen faith for present "impossible" situations?
2. What "mighty rivers" (obstacles) need God's intervention in your life?
3. How does Christ as the source of living water (John 4:10, 7:37-38) fulfill these images of God's provision?

Interlinear Text

אֶתְּ הַ	בָּ קָצַעַתָּ	מַעַן	וְגַ חֵל	אֶתְּ הַ	הּ וְבָ שָׁבַתָּ
H859	Thou didst cleave	the fountain	and the flood	H859	thou driedst up
	H1234	H4599	H5158		H3001
אֵתְּ: נָהָר וְ					
rivers	mighty				
H5104	H386				

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 20:11 (Parallel theme): And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.

Isaiah 48:21 (Parallel theme): And they thirsted not when he led them through the deserts: he caused the waters to flow out of the rock for them: he clave the rock also, and the waters gushed out.

Psalms 105:41 (Parallel theme): He opened the rock, and the waters gushed out; they ran in the dry places like a river.

Joshua 2:10 (Parallel theme): For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed.

