

# Psalm 74:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou hast set all the borders of the earth: thou hast made summer and winter.

## Analysis

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The psalm continues creation theology: "Thou hast set all the borders of the earth: thou hast made summer and winter" (Hebrew atah hitzavta kol-g-vulot eretz qayitz va-choref atah y-tzartam). "Set borders" indicates God's sovereign establishment of geographical and natural boundaries. "Made" (Hebrew yatzar) is the potter's forming—deliberate creative shaping. The seasonal cycle demonstrates ongoing providential governance. The verse argues: God who orders all creation can certainly reorder the chaos of Israel's destruction.

## Historical Context

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The seasonal cycle was crucial for agricultural societies yet mysterious—pagan religions credited fertility gods (Baal, etc.). This psalm insists the LORD alone controls seasons, growth, and harvest. Job 38-41 similarly uses creation to establish God's wisdom and power. Acts 14:17 applies this: God's provision of "seasons and fruitful years" testifies to His goodness toward all people.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How do regular natural cycles (seasons, sunrise/sunset) testify to God's faithful governance?
2. In what ways does recognizing God's sovereignty over "all borders" address anxiety about chaos and disorder?
3. How does Christ's calming the storm demonstrate His divine authority over creation (Mark 4:39)?

## Interlinear Text

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אַתָּה אָתָּה בְּכָל גְּבוּל וְתַּחֲזִיק אֶרֶץ אֶחָד קָרְבָּן וְצָמְדָן  
H859 Thou hast set H3605 all the borders H1367 of the earth H776 summer H7019 and winter H2779

אַתָּה בְּכָל גְּבוּל וְתַּחֲזִיק אֶרֶץ אֶחָד  
H859 thou hast made H3335

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 32:8** (Parallel theme): When the most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel.

**Acts 17:26** (Creation): And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

**Acts 14:17** (Parallel theme): Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

**Genesis 8:22** (Parallel theme): While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

