

Psalms 78:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Though he had commanded the clouds from above, and
opened the doors of heaven,

Analysis

Though he had commanded the clouds from above, and opened the doors of heaven—despite Israel's unbelief, God demonstrates grace by answering their demand. The image of heaven's 'doors' (delet) opening portrays the cosmos as God's storehouse, with Him sovereignly distributing provision. This divine 'warehouse' imagery appears in Malachi 3:10: 'open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing.'

Jesus invokes this verse's imagery when teaching 'ask, and it will be given you' (Matthew 7:7). Yet He qualifies it: 'How much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!' (7:11). God opened heaven's doors for grumbling Israel; how much more for trusting children who ask in Jesus's name (John 14:13-14)?

Historical Context

The manna provision (Exodus 16) continued for forty years—approximately 14,600 consecutive days of fresh bread from heaven. This sustained miracle required God to 'command clouds' daily, demonstrating patient grace despite persistent unbelief.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does God's provision for unbelieving Israel magnify His grace toward believing Christians?
2. What 'doors of heaven' has God opened for you that you've taken for granted as natural provision?

Interlinear Text

וְיֹאמֶר	שְׁמַיִם	מִמֶּנִּי	וְדִלְתֵי	שְׁמַיִם
Though he had commanded	the clouds	from above	the doors	of heaven
H6680	H7834	H4605	H1817	H8064

וַיִּפְתָּח
and opened
H6605

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 7:11 (Parallel theme): In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.

Malachi 3:10 (Parallel theme): Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.