

# Psalms 89:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou hast broken Rahab in pieces, as one that is slain; thou hast scattered thine enemies with thy strong arm.

## Analysis

**Thou hast broken Rahab in pieces, as one that is slain** (אַתָּה דָּכַאתָ כְּחֵלֶל רַהַב)—Rahab here is not the Jericho prostitute but a poetic name for Egypt (Isaiah 30:7) or a mythological sea monster representing chaos and evil. Dika'ta (crushed, broken) with chalal (slain, pierced) depicts utter destruction. **Thou hast scattered thine enemies with thy strong arm** (בְּזִרְזוֹעַ עֲזָרְךָ פִּזַּרְתָּ אוֹיְבֶיךָ)—God's zeroa (arm) symbolizes His might, scattering (pizar—dispersing) enemies like chaff.

This recalls the Exodus—God's 'strong arm' crushing Egypt (Rahab) at the Red Sea (Exodus 15:6-7). The prophets later used Rahab as shorthand for any enemy of God's people (Isaiah 51:9-10). Theologically, this anticipates Christ's crushing of Satan (Genesis 3:15, Romans 16:20), the cosmic 'Rahab' behind all earthly opposition to God's kingdom. Colossians 2:15 describes Christ publicly disgracing principalities and powers at the cross.

## Historical Context

The Exodus was Israel's defining salvation event, repeatedly referenced as proof of God's power to save. Just as God 'broke Rahab' (Egypt) to deliver Israel physically, He would break all powers opposing His Messianic kingdom, culminating in Christ's resurrection victory over death and Satan.

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. What modern 'Rahabs' (systemic evils, cultural idols, personal strongholds) need to be broken by God's strong arm?
2. How does remembering God's past victories (like the Exodus) strengthen faith for present battles?
3. In what ways does Christ's cross represent the ultimate 'breaking of Rahab' (Satan and sin's power)?

## Interlinear Text

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אַתָּה ה	דָּכָא אַתָּה	כְּחֵל ל	בְּזֶרְוֹעַ	אֵל זָבֵה	
H859	Thou hast broken	as one that is slain	Rahab	arm	with thy strong
	H1792	H2491	H7294	H2220	H5797
פָּיִרְתָּ	אֹיְבֵיךָ:				
thou hast scattered	thine enemies				
H6340	H341				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 144:6** (Parallel theme): Cast forth lightning, and scatter them: shoot out thine arrows, and destroy them.