

# 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

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**Thou hast broken Rahab in pieces, as one that is slain** (אָפַת דְּפָאַת צְחָלָל נָכַב)—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** (בְּזִרְעָן אָזֶב פִּזְרָת אַיְצָב)—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

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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	אָתָּה	אָתָּה	כִּי	כִּי	כִּי	בְּגִזְעָל	בְּגִזְעָל	בְּגִזְעָל
H859	<b>Thou hast broken</b>	<b>as one that is slain</b>	H2491	<b>Rahab</b>	H7294	<b>arm</b>	<b>with thy strong</b>	H5797
H1792					H2220			
אָמַתְּךָ	אָמַתְּךָ	אָמַתְּךָ						
thou hast scattered	<b>thine enemies</b>	H341						
H6340								

## 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.