

Psalm 89:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine: as for the world and the fulness thereof, thou hast founded them.

Analysis

The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine (לְךָ שָׁמַיִם אַף־לְךָ אֶرֶץ)—The emphatic possessive lekha (to you, yours) asserts God's universal ownership of both shamayim (heavens) and eretz (earth). **As for the world and the fulness thereof, thou hast founded them** (תְּבָל וּמְלָאָה אֲתָּה יִסְׁדַּקְתָּ) — Tevel (inhabited world) and its melo (fullness, everything in it) were yasad (founded, established) by God alone.

This echoes Psalm 24:1—'The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof.' Paul quotes this in 1 Corinthians 10:26 to argue for Christian freedom regarding food. The theological implication is massive: God owns everything, therefore no earthly power has ultimate authority, and believers steward (not own) all possessions. The Davidic covenant rests on this foundation—God can promise an eternal throne because He owns all kingdoms. Christ as Creator (John 1:3, Colossians 1:16) inherits this universal ownership.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern kings claimed divine authorization to rule, but Israel's theology inverted this—God owned everything, and earthly kings were merely His vice-regents. David understood he was stewarding God's kingdom, not building his own empire. This prepared the way for the Messiah who would rule not by military conquest but by divine right as Creator-King.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What practical difference does it make to view yourself as steward rather than owner of your possessions, time, and talents?
2. How does God's ownership of 'the world and its fullness' affect your response to environmental and social concerns?
3. In what areas of life are you tempted to act as owner rather than acknowledging God's ultimate ownership?

Interlinear Text

תְּבִלַּת מִים שֶׁ אַתָּה לְבָנָךְ אַתָּה לְבָנָךְ
H0 The heavens H637 H0 are thine the earth also is thine as for the world
H8064 H776 H8398

אַתָּה כָּלְלָא הָאֵת הַיְלָא
and the fulness H859 thereof thou hast founded
H4393 H3245

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 29:11 (Parallel theme): Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.

Genesis 1:1 (Parallel theme): In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Psalms 115:16 (Parallel theme): The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD'S: but the earth hath he given to the children of men.

1 Corinthians 10:26 (Parallel theme): For the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof.

Psalms 50:12 (Parallel theme): If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof.

Genesis 2:1 (Parallel theme): Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

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