

Psalms 89:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The north and the south thou hast created them: Tabor and Hermon shall rejoice in thy name.

Analysis

The north and the south thou hast created them (אֶפְרַיִם וַיָּמֵן אַפְתָּה בְּרַאֲתֶם)—Tzafon (north) and yamin (south, literally 'right hand') represent all directions; bara (created) is the verb used in Genesis 1:1 for divine creation ex nihilo. **Tabor and Hermon shall rejoice in thy name** (תָּבוֹר וֵהַרְמֹן בְּשָׁמְךָ יְהֹוָה)—These mountains, located in northern Israel, ranan (shout for joy, sing) at God's name (shem—identity, reputation, character).

Mount Tabor (where Deborah defeated Sisera) and Mount Hermon (where Jesus may have been transfigured) represent geographic landmarks worshiping their Creator. This personification anticipates Romans 8:19-22 where creation itself groans, awaiting redemption. Even inanimate creation responds to God's glory—mountains 'skip like rams' (Psalm 114:4), stars 'sing together' (Job 38:7). If mountains rejoice in God's name, how much more should image-bearers?

Historical Context

Mount Tabor rises prominently in the Jezreel Valley, visible for miles, while Mount Hermon dominates northern Israel at over 9,000 feet, often snow-capped. These landmarks were daily reminders of God's creative majesty. The psalmist's poetry makes the landscape itself a witness to God's glory and covenant faithfulness.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. When was the last time you allowed creation itself (mountains, oceans, stars) to move you to worship God's majesty?
2. How does the reality that even mountains 'rejoice' in God's name challenge human pride or indifference?
3. What does it mean that creation awaits redemption (Romans 8), and how does this inform Christian environmental stewardship?

Interlinear Text

אַפְּ וָיְ	וְיִמְלֹא	הַעֲתָה	בְּרָאָתֶךָ	וְרַבָּה	וְרַמְּ וְיִ
The north	and the south	H859	thou hast created	them Tabor	and Hermon
H6828	H3225		H1254	H8396	H2768
בְּשַׁמְךָ יְרַגְּנָה					
in thy name	shall rejoice				
H8034	H7442				

Additional Cross-References

Job 26:7 (Parallel theme): He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.

Joshua 19:22 (Parallel theme): And the coast reacheth to Tabor, and Shahazimah, and Beth-shemesh; and the outgoings of their border were at Jordan: sixteen cities with their villages.

Joshua 12:1 (Parallel theme): Now these are the kings of the land, which the children of Israel smote, and possessed their land on the other side Jordan toward

the rising of the sun, from the river Arnon unto mount Hermon, and all the plain on the east:

Psalms 133:3 (Parallel theme): As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

Psalms 98:8 (Parallel theme): Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together

Judges 4:6 (Parallel theme): And she sent and called Barak the son of Abinoam out of Kedesh-naphtali, and said unto him, Hath not the LORD God of Israel commanded, saying, Go and draw toward mount Tabor, and take with thee ten thousand men of the children of Naphtali and of the children of Zebulun?

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