

Psalms 89:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For who in the heaven can be compared unto the LORD? who among the sons of the mighty can be likened unto the LORD?

Analysis

For who in the heaven can be compared unto the LORD? (כִּי מִי בַשָּׁמַיִם יִשְׁחַק לַיהוָה)—The rhetorical question demands the answer 'no one.' Shamayim (heaven) contains no being who can be arak (arranged alongside, compared) to Yahweh. **Who among the sons of the mighty can be likened unto the LORD?** (מִי יִדְמֶה לַיהוָה בְּבָנֵי אֱלִים)—The bene elim (sons of gods/mighty ones) are heavenly beings or angels, yet none can be damah (likened, made similar) to Yahweh.

This is radical monotheism in a polytheistic world. While Israel's neighbors worshiped pantheons with competing deities, Israel's God stands alone—incomparable in power, faithfulness, and covenant-keeping. The verse implicitly dismisses any angel worship or elevation of heavenly beings, a theme Paul reinforces in Colossians 2:18. Christ alone shares the divine throne (Hebrews 1:3-4), superior even to angels.

Historical Context

In ancient Near Eastern cosmology, the divine council consisted of multiple gods deliberating together. Israel's psalms subvert this—Yahweh alone is sovereign, and all heavenly 'mighty ones' are His created servants, not rivals. This theological revolution prepared the way for monotheism's universal claim.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What modern equivalents to the 'sons of the mighty' (power, success, human approval) are you tempted to elevate alongside God?
2. How does God's incomparability among heavenly beings inform your view of spiritual warfare and angelic/demonic powers?
3. What comfort does God's absolute uniqueness provide when facing circumstances that seem beyond His control?

Interlinear Text

מִי כִי	בְּשָׁמַיִם	יִשְׁעוֹ ה'	לַיהוָה	יִדָּמָה
H3588	H4310	H7834	H3068	H1819
	For who in the heaven	can be compared	unto the LORD	can be likened
לַיהוָה	בְּבָנֵי י'	אֱלִים:		
H3068	H1121	H410		
unto the LORD	who among the sons	of the mighty		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 113:5 (References Lord): Who is like unto the LORD our God, who dwelleth on high,

Psalms 86:8 (References Lord): Among the gods there is none like unto thee, O Lord; neither are there any works like unto thy works.

Jeremiah 10:6 (References Lord): Forasmuch as there is none like unto thee, O LORD; thou art great, and thy name is great in might.

Psalms 71:19 (Parallel theme): Thy righteousness also, O God, is very high, who hast done great things: O God, who is like unto thee!

Psalms 29:1 (References Lord): Give unto the LORD, O ye mighty, give unto the LORD glory and strength.

Exodus 15:11 (References Lord): Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?

Psalms 89:8 (References Lord): O LORD God of hosts, who is a strong LORD like unto thee? or to thy faithfulness round about thee?

Psalms 40:5 (References Lord): Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.

Psalms 52:1 (Parallel theme): Why boastest thou thyself in mischief, O mighty man? the goodness of God endureth continually.

Psalms 73:25 (Parallel theme): Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.