

Psalms 89:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O LORD God of hosts, who is a strong LORD like unto thee? or to thy faithfulness round about thee?

Analysis

O LORD God of hosts, who is a strong LORD like unto thee? (יהוה אלהי צבאות) Yahweh Elohei Tzeva'ot (LORD God of armies/hosts) is the divine warrior commanding angelic armies. Chasin (mighty, strong) emphasizes military might—no rival commander exists. **Or to thy faithfulness round about thee?** (ואמונתך סביבותיך) God's emunah (faithfulness, reliability) surrounds Him like an armor or fortress wall—it's part of His very essence, inseparable from His character.

The military imagery connects to God's covenant protection of Israel. When Israel went to war, they weren't merely fighting with human armies but with the cosmic Commander whose faithfulness guaranteed victory when they walked in obedience. This theme crescendos in Revelation 19:11-16 where Christ rides as 'King of kings and Lord of lords,' leading heaven's armies. God's strength and faithfulness are not separate attributes—His power is always deployed in covenant loyalty.

Historical Context

The title 'LORD of hosts' (Yahweh Tzeva'ot) appears 285 times in Scripture, primarily in contexts of divine warfare or judgment. It reminded Israel that their military strength depended entirely on God's presence and covenant faithfulness, not chariots and horses (Psalm 20:7).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does viewing God as 'LORD of hosts' (Commander of armies) change your perspective on spiritual battles you face?
2. In what ways is God's faithfulness your surrounding 'fortress' in daily challenges?
3. How does Christ's role as divine warrior in Revelation inform your understanding of final judgment and justice?

Interlinear Text

וְהִ	אֵלֶּה	צָבָא	וְתָ	מַיִּ	כִּמְ	וְבָ	יְהִי	וְתָ	אֵלֶּה	וְתָ	יְהִי	הָ
וְ LORD	הָ God	צָבָא of hosts	וְ	מַיִּ H4310	כִּמְ	וְבָ	יְהִי H3644	וְ	אֵלֶּה who is a strong	וְ	יְהִי LORD	הָ
H3068	H430	H6635							H2626		H3050	

like unto thee or to thy faithfulness סְבִיבָתִיךְ
H530 round about H5439

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 32:17 (References God): Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:

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

1 Samuel 2:2 (References God): There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.

Psalms 147:5 (References Lord): Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.

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