

Psalms 93:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their waves.

Analysis

The repetition of 'floods have lifted up' creates urgency and intensity, depicting chaotic waters (nahar—rivers/floods) as threatening forces. In Hebrew cosmology, uncontrolled waters symbolize chaos, evil, and opposition to God's order. The threefold repetition ('lifted up... lifted up... lifted up their waves') emphasizes both the magnitude of chaos and the psalmist's rhetorical intensity. Yet even this threatening imagery serves to magnify God's superior power in the next verse.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern creation myths often featured gods battling sea monsters or chaos waters. This psalm subverts that mythology by showing Yahweh's easy supremacy over such forces.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What 'floods' or overwhelming circumstances in your life feel like chaos threatening to overtake you?

2. How does recognizing that God is sovereign even over chaos change how you respond to life's turbulent times?

Interlinear Text

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| וְאֵשֶׁת | וְתַּחַת | גַּבָּר | וְתַּחַת | יְהֹוָה | וְאֵשֶׁת | וְתַּחַת | גַּבָּר | וְתַּחַת | מִזְרָחֶם |
| have lifted up | The floods | O LORD | have lifted up | The floods | their voice | | | | |
| H5375 | H5104 | H3068 | H5375 | H5104 | H6963 | | | | |

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|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------|-----------|
| וְאֵשֶׁת | וְתַּחַת | גַּבָּר | וְתַּחַת | תְּכִימָן |
| have lifted up | The floods | their waves | | |

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| H5375 | H5104 | H1796 |
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Additional Cross-References

Psalms 96:11 (Parallel theme): Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof.

Psalms 18:4 (Parallel theme): The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.

Revelation 17:15 (Parallel theme): And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

Isaiah 55:12 (Parallel theme): For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Revelation 12:15 (Parallel theme): And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

Jonah 2:3 (Parallel theme): For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me.