

Psalms 95:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land.

Analysis

The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land. This verse grounds God's ownership in His creative work: the sea belongs to Him because He made it; the land is His because He formed it. The Hebrew structure emphasizes these twin claims: *lo hayam ve-hu asahu* (לוֹ הָיָם וְהוּא עָשָׂהוּ, "His is the sea, and He made it") and *veyabbashet yadav yatsaru* (וַיַּבֶּשֶׁת יָדָיו יָצְרוּ, "and the dry land, His hands formed").

The "sea" (*yam*, יָם) held deep significance for ancient Israel—both literal (Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, Sea of Galilee) and symbolic. In Ancient Near Eastern mythology, the sea represented chaos that gods struggled to control. In contrast, Israel's God effortlessly made (*asah*, עָשָׂה) the sea, demonstrating His supremacy over any supposed chaos. The verb *yatsar* (יָצַר), "formed," is the potter's word used in Genesis 2:7 for God forming Adam from dust—deliberate, skilled, purposeful creation.

"His hands" (*yadav*, יָדָיו) personalizes creation—not distant, impersonal force but intimate involvement. God's hands shaped the continents. This echoes Genesis 1:9-10, where God gathered waters and caused dry land to appear. The New Testament reveals Christ as the agent of creation: "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made" (John 1:3). Worship, therefore, is the only fitting response to the Creator.

Historical Context

Israel's salvation history was marked by God's control over sea and land: parting the Red Sea (Exodus 14), stopping the Jordan River (Joshua 3), calming storms (Jonah 1; Matthew 8:23-27). These acts demonstrated that the God who created sea and land continues to rule them for His people's deliverance. The psalm's liturgical context invited worshipers to remember these mighty acts and trust the same Creator-Redeemer. Greco-Roman mythology feared capricious sea gods; Israel worshiped the God who made the sea itself.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's ownership by creation (He made it) affect how you view the natural world and environmental stewardship?
2. What modern 'seas of chaos' (political turmoil, economic instability, personal crises) need to be surrendered to the God who made the sea?
3. How does recognizing Christ as Creator deepen your understanding of His authority and worthiness to receive worship?

Interlinear Text

אֲשֶׁר	לֹ	הַ יָּם	וְהוּא	עָשָׂה הוּא	אֶת הַיָּבֵשׁ	וְיָדָיו
H834	H0	The sea	H1931	is his and he made	the dry	it and his hands
		H3220		H6213	H3006	H3027

יָצָרוּ:
formed
H3335

