

Psalms 97:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The hills melted like wax at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

Analysis

Mountains, representing the most stable and permanent features of creation, melting like wax before God demonstrates His absolute power over nature. The phrase 'at the presence of the LORD' (mipne Yahweh) indicates that His mere presence, not exerted effort, causes this melting. The designation 'Lord of the whole earth' (adon kol-ha'arets) asserts universal sovereignty. If mountains cannot stand before God, no human power or institution can resist Him. This verse humbles human pride and assures believers that no obstacle is too great for God.

Historical Context

Volcanic activity in the ancient Near East may have provided visual imagery, but the theological point transcends natural phenomena to assert God's unlimited power.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What 'mountains' (obstacles, problems, oppositions) in your life need to melt before God's presence?
2. How does remembering God's power over all creation affect your confidence in prayer?

Interlinear Text

הַ	לִפְנֵי	וְ	יְהִי	הַ	לִפְנֵי	וְ	מִתְּמֻמָּה	בְּ	יְמִינֵי	וְ	מִתְּמֻמָּה	בְּ	יְמִינֵי	
The hills	like wax	melted	at the presence	of the LORD	at the presence									
H2022	H1749	H4549	H6440	H3068	H6440									

| בְּ | אָדָם | כָּל | בְּ | אָרֶץ | | | | | | | | | | |
| **of the Lord** | H113 | H3605 | **of the whole earth** | H776 | | | | | | | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Nahum 1:5 (Parallel theme): The mountains quake at him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at his presence, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein.

Psalms 47:2 (References Lord): For the LORD most high is terrible; he is a great King over all the earth.

Habakkuk 3:6 (Parallel theme): He stood, and measured the earth: he beheld, and drove asunder the nations; and the everlasting mountains were scattered, the perpetual hills did bow: his ways are everlasting.

Psalms 46:6 (Parallel theme): The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted.

Joshua 3:11 (References Lord): Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth passeth over before you into Jordan.

1 Corinthians 1:2 (References Lord): Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their's and our's:

Isaiah 54:5 (References Lord): For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.

Psalms 83:18 (Parallel theme): That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth.

Zechariah 4:14 (References Lord): Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.

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