

Psalms 97:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For thou, LORD, art high above all the earth: thou art exalted far above all gods.

Analysis

The phrase 'high above all the earth' (al-kol-ha'arets) establishes God's transcendent position. Being 'exalted far above all gods' doesn't concede other gods' existence but uses polemical language to assert Yahweh's incomparability. The Hebrew *ma'od* (exceedingly, very) intensifies the exaltation. This verse's absolute claims refute both polytheism and religious pluralism—there is no pantheon, only one supreme God. His supremacy is not one of degree but of kind—He alone is God.

Historical Context

In the ancient world of competing national deities, Israel's radical monotheism set them apart and formed the foundation for Christianity's exclusive truth claims.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How should God's absolute supremacy affect your response to religious pluralism's claim that all religions are equally valid?

2. In what areas of your life are you tempted to give other 'gods' (priorities, values) the allegiance due to God alone?

Interlinear Text

מְאֹד	מֵאָתָה	אַתָּה	יְהוָה	עַל	עַל	כָּל	כָּל	כָּל
H3966	H3588	H859	H3068	H5945	H5921	H3605	H776	H3068
far above	at	thou	LORD	high above			all the earth	all the earth
עַל יְהוָה	עַל	כָּל	אֱלֹהִים:	כָּל	עַל	כָּל	כָּל	כָּל
H5927	H5921	H3605	H430	H5945	H5921	H3605	H776	H3966
far above	over	all	gods	high	over	all	all	far above

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 95:3 (References God): For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

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

Exodus 18:11 (References God): Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods: for in the thing wherein they dealt proudly he was above them.

Jeremiah 10:10 (References God): But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.

Psalms 96:4 (References God): For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods.

Psalms 135:5 (References God): For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods.

Ephesians 1:21 (Parallel theme): Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

