

Psalm 98:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

Analysis

Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof (ים וְמַלְאָו, yir'am hayam umelo'o)—the psalmist summons creation itself to praise. Ra'am (roar, thunder) describes the sea's powerful voice. The phrase umelo'o (and its fulness) means everything the sea contains—creatures, waves, depths.

The world, and they that dwell therein (תָּבֵל וַיְשִׁבּוּ בָּהּ, tevel veyoshvei vah)—tevel (world, inhabited earth) expands from sea to land, from nature to humanity. Yoshvei (those dwelling) includes all earth's inhabitants. Creation theology meets universal worship: everything God made must praise its Maker.

This cosmic call to worship anticipates Romans 8:19-22, where creation itself groans for redemption's completion. Paul sees nature longing to join redeemed humanity in freedom's glory. The new creation will feature both renewed humans and renewed cosmos praising together (Revelation 21:1-4).

Historical Context

Ancient Israel understood creation as participant in covenant—cursed through Adam's fall (Genesis 3:17), blessed through Noah's rainbow (Genesis 9:13), responsive to God's voice (Psalm 29). This verse reflects Hebrew cosmology where creation actively responds to its Creator.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does viewing creation as worshiper (not mere resource) change your relationship to the natural world?
2. What does it mean that the 'sea roars' in praise—can inarticulate creation somehow glorify God?
3. How will Christ's redemption affect not just humans but the whole created order?

Interlinear Text

בָּהּ שְׁבִי לְבָלָת מִלְאָה יָרֻעַם
roar Let the sea and the fulness thereof the world and they that dwell H0
H7481 H3220 H4393 H8398 H3427

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 49:13 (Parallel theme): Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the LORD hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted.

Psalms 24:1 (Parallel theme): The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.