

Psalms 99:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD reigneth; let the people tremble: he sitteth
between the cherubims; let the earth be moved.

Analysis

The declaration 'The LORD reigneth' (Yahweh malak) opens this third consecutive enthronement psalm, emphasizing God's kingship as central to worship. The call for people to 'tremble' (ragaz) indicates appropriate fear before the holy King. God 'sitteth between the cherubims' refers to the mercy seat in the Holy of Holies, where God's presence dwelled above the ark. This position demonstrates both God's transcendent holiness and His immanent presence with His people. The earth moving at His reign shows creation's response to divine sovereignty.

Historical Context

The ark of the covenant with its cherubim-adorned mercy seat represented God's throne in Israel, making His reign both theological truth and liturgical reality in temple worship.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does awareness of God's holy reign produce both reverential fear and confident trust in your life?
2. What does it mean that the God who is enthroned above cherubim also dwells with His people through Christ?

Interlinear Text

יְהוָה ה	מֶלֶךְ	יִרְגָּז ו	עַמּוֹ יִם	יֵשֵׁב ב	בֵּין רֻכְבֵּי יִם
The LORD	reigneth	tremble	let the people	he sitteth	between the cherubims
H3068	H4427	H7264	H5971	H3427	H3742
תָּנוּ וט	הָאָרֶץ:				
be moved	let the earth				
H5120	H776				

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 25:22 (Parallel theme): And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.

Psalms 97:1 (Kingdom): The LORD reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof.

Psalms 80:1 (Parallel theme): Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest between the cherubims, shine forth.

Psalms 93:1 (Kingdom): The LORD reigneth, he is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed with strength, wherewith he hath girded himself: the world also is stablished, that it cannot be moved.

Revelation 20:11 (Parallel theme): And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

Revelation 11:17 (Kingdom): Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

Isaiah 19:14 (References Lord): The LORD hath mingled a perverse spirit in the midst thereof: and they have caused Egypt to err in every work thereof, as a drunken man staggereth in his vomit.

Psalms 97:4 (Parallel theme): His lightnings enlightened the world: the earth saw, and trembled.

Psalms 18:10 (Parallel theme): And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind.

Psalms 96:10 (Kingdom): Say among the heathen that the LORD reigneth: the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved: he shall judge the people righteously.