

The Earth Melted

Psalm 46:6

Charlie Brackett

This verse contains a wonderfully concise and pungent thought about our God: "He raised His voice, the earth melted." The King James translation reads, "He uttered His voice, the earth melted."

In the original language of the Bible, God has many names stressing different attributes of His character or being. In this Psalm the poet used the name Elohim, which indicates particularly the power and might of God. It is the first name of God used in scripture and was appropriately chosen by the first writer to say, "In the beginning God created.." Our God is a God of great power. He is God. He is Elohim. By simply raising His voice He can melt the earth. A mere utterance from His lips. Imagine the power of God's full voice!

Throughout the Genesis account of creation the words are repeated, "Then God said,.. and each time He spoke, great portions of this magnificent universe in which we live came into being. Hebrews 11:3 says, "By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible." He spoke and the world was created. He spoke and the first man began to live. But He didn't exhaust the power of His voice in creation. Hebrews 1:3 says, "(God) upholds all things by the word of His power." Elohim continues to manage all creation by His words.

David speaks of Elohim's voice of power in the 68th Psalm, specifically in the last three verses:

To Him who rides upon the highest heavens, which are from ancient times;
Behold, He speaks forth with His voice, a mighty voice.
Ascribe strength to God;
His majesty is over Israel, And His strength is in the skies.
O God, Thou art awesome from Thy sanctuary.
The God of Israel Himself gives strength and power to the people.
Blessed be God!

I like the eloquence of David's thoughts as he paints for us a picture of God's mighty voice, a voice of majesty and strength and power. His voice is everywhere. But of all that David said in this psalm, I like most the last application He makes of that power. He brings it home to us. "The God of Israel Himself gives strength and power to the people." We are His spiritual Israel. We obtain our strength and power from God. May the Lord help us always use His power for His glory that we may never be on the destructive end of a voice which, when uttered, melts the earth.