

# Job 20:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

All darkness shall be hid in his secret places: a fire not blown shall consume him; it shall go ill with him that is left in his tabernacle.

## Analysis

**All darkness shall be hid in his secret places** (kol-choshek tamun litsppunav)—choshek (darkness) represents calamity and divine judgment throughout Scripture. Tamun (hidden, stored up) suggests judgment lies in wait. **A fire not blown shall consume him** (te'akhelhu esh lo-nuppach)—divinely kindled fire (esh lo-nuppach, not blown by man) that consumes without human agency.

Zophar describes supernatural judgment: darkness stored in hidden places and fire not requiring human kindling point to direct divine intervention. This imagery anticipates Gehenna in NT teaching—unquenchable fire (Mark 9:43-48). **It shall go ill with him that is left in his tabernacle**—even survivors won't escape. Zophar's relentless vision leaves no possibility of redemption or mercy.

## Historical Context

Fire represented divine judgment throughout Scripture (Genesis 19:24, Leviticus 10:2, 2 Kings 1:10). 'Fire not blown' distinguished supernatural judgment from human-kindled fires. Ancient hearths required bellows or blowing to intensify flame; unblown fire that still consumed demonstrated divine origin. This motif appears in wilderness judgment narratives (Numbers 11:1, 16:35).

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does divine judgment as 'fire not blown' emphasize God's active role rather than impersonal fate?
2. What is the relationship between OT temporal judgments by fire and NT eternal judgment in Gehenna?
3. How should we balance proclaiming God's judgment with extending His offer of mercy in Christ?

## Interlinear Text

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כָּל	חֹשֶׁךְ	בַּמְּלֵא	לֹאַפְּנֵי	תֵּתְאַכְּלָהוּ	שָׁאַלְתָּהּ	אֵשׁ	לֹא
H3605	All darkness	shall be hid	in his secret places	shall consume	a fire	H3808	
H2822		H2934		H6845		H398	H784
נַפְתָּח	וְנִזְבַּח	וְנִזְבַּח	שְׁנִית	בְּאֹהֶל			
not blown	him it shall go ill	with him that is left	in his tabernacle				
H5301		H3415		H8300		H168	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 21:9** (Parallel theme): Thou shalt make them as a fiery oven in the time of thine anger: the LORD shall swallow them up in his wrath, and the fire shall devour them.

**Psalms 120:4** (Parallel theme): Sharp arrows of the mighty, with coals of juniper.

**Isaiah 30:33** (Parallel theme): For Tophet is ordained of old; yea, for the king it is prepared; he hath made it deep and large: the pile thereof is fire and much wood; the breath of the LORD, like a stream of brimstone, doth kindle it.

**Isaiah 8:22** (Darkness): And they shall look unto the earth; and behold trouble and darkness, dimness of anguish; and they shall be driven to darkness.

**Matthew 3:12** (Parallel theme): Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

**Matthew 8:12** (Darkness): But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

**Jude 1:13** (Darkness): Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.

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