

Job 22:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thick clouds are a covering to him, that he seeth not; and he walketh in the circuit of heaven.

Analysis

Thick clouds are a covering to him—(עַבְים סְתַרְלָו) Eliphaz continues the false accusation, claiming Job believes avim (clouds) hide human activity from God's sight. Ironically, clouds represent God's glorious presence in Scripture (Exodus 13:21, 1 Kings 8:10-11), not His limitation.

He walketh in the circuit of heaven—(חָג שָׁמַיִם יַתְפַלֵּג) Chug shamayim (circle/vault of heaven) describes God's transcendent sphere. Eliphaz caricatures transcendence as absence: God merely paces the heavenly dome, unconcerned with earth. This contradicts Job's actual theology—he knows God sees everything (Job 7:17-20, 10:4-7) and desperately wants divine engagement. Eliphaz's straw-man attack reveals he hasn't listened to Job at all.

Historical Context

Ancient cosmology pictured the heavens as a solid dome (raqia) with God's throne above. The 'circuit of heaven' suggests God confined to the celestial realm. This deistic caricature appears in skeptical literature but not in Job's speeches. Eliphaz imports foreign theology to condemn Job.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Genesis 1:1 – Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Eliphaz's misrepresentation of Job's words warn against hearing only what confirms our theological prejudices?
2. What is the difference between God's transcendence (His otherness) and deistic distance (His uninvolvement)?
3. When have you felt that God was 'walking in the circuit of heaven' unconcerned with your struggles—and how did you process that?

Interlinear Text

וְיָרָא הַלּוּ צְפָר עַב יְמִים וְיָרָא הַלּוּ צְפָר עַב יְמִים
in the circuit to him that he seeth are a covering thick clouds

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 97:2 (Parallel theme): Clouds and darkness are round about him: righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne.

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