

# 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

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**Thick clouds are a covering to him** (עָבִים סִתְּרֵלּוֹ)—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** (חֹג שָׁמַיִם יִתְהַלֵּךְ)—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

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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

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**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

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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 uninvolvedness)?
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

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עָבִי יָם	קָתֵר	וְלֵא לֵו	וְרָאָה	וְחֵוּג	
Thick clouds	are a covering	H0	H3808	to him that he seeth	in the circuit
H5645	H5643			H7200	H2329
שָׁמַיִם	וְלֵךְ:				
of heaven	not and he walketh				
H8064	H1980				

## Additional Cross-References

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