

# Job 26:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Lo, these are parts of his ways: but how little a portion is heard of him? but the thunder of his power who can understand?

## Analysis

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Job concludes: 'Lo, these are parts of his ways: but how little a portion is heard of him? but the thunder of his power who can understand?' The phrase 'parts of his ways' (qetsot derakhav, קְצוֹת דְּרַחְבּוֹ) uses qetsot meaning 'edges' or 'extremities'—we perceive only the fringes of God's works. The word shemets (שֶׁמֶט, portion) means a whisper or faint sound. Ra'am (רָעַם, thunder) suggests overwhelming power. Job humbly acknowledges that even his profound descriptions of divine power barely scratch the surface—God's full majesty transcends human comprehension.

## Historical Context

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Job's humility about human understanding contrasts sharply with his friends' certainty. After describing God's cosmic power (26:5-13), Job admits these descriptions capture only the smallest portion of divine reality. This epistemological humility allows Job both to affirm what he knows (God's power and character) and admit what he doesn't (God's specific purposes in his suffering). The balance models mature faith.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does Job's acknowledgment that we perceive only the 'edges' of God's ways shape appropriate humility in our theology?
2. What is the difference between Job's humble wonder and his friends' presumptuous certainty?

## Interlinear Text

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הֵן	אֵלֶּהָ	קִצּוֹת	דְּרָכָיו	וְיָמָה	שֶׁמָּעַל	דָּבָר
H2005	H428	Lo these are parts	of his ways	H4100	but how little	a portion
		H7098	H1870		H8102	H1697
נִשְׁמָע	בּוֹ	וְכִלְכִּל	גְּבוּרָתוֹ	מִי	יִתְבּוֹנֵן:	
is heard	H0	of him but the thunder	of his power	H4310	who can understand	
H8085		H7482	H1369		H995	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 139:6** (Parallel theme): Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.

**Psalms 145:3** (Parallel theme): Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.

**Romans 11:33** (Parallel theme): O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

**Psalms 29:3** (Parallel theme): The voice of the LORD is upon the waters: the God of glory thundereth: the LORD is upon many waters.

**Job 40:9** (Parallel theme): Hast thou an arm like God? or canst thou thunder with a voice like him?

**Job 4:12** (Parallel theme): Now a thing was secretly brought to me, and mine ear received a little thereof.

**Job 36:29** (Parallel theme): Also can any understand the spreadings of the clouds, or the noise of his tabernacle?

**1 Samuel 2:10** (Parallel theme): The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.

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