

Job 26:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He bindeth up the waters in his thick clouds; and the cloud is not rent under them.

Analysis

Job marvels at God's power: "He bindeth up the waters in his thick clouds; and the cloud is not rent under them." The verb tsarar (צָרַר, "bindeth up") means to wrap or bind securely. The noun av (אָוֶן, "thick clouds") denotes dense cloud masses. Despite containing massive water weight, clouds don't burst (baqa, בָּקָע, "rent"). Job observes meteorological wonder revealing divine power and wisdom. From a Reformed perspective, this illustrates God's sustaining providence—He not only created natural laws but continually upholds them (Hebrews 1:3). The water cycle, atmospheric physics, and cloud dynamics all depend on God's ongoing governance. Modern science describes how clouds work; theology reveals who established and maintains these systems. Job's observation anticipates Paul's declaration that "by him all things consist" (Colossians 1:17)—cohere and hold together.

Historical Context

Ancient peoples observed weather phenomena without understanding atmospheric physics. Clouds holding water without bursting seemed miraculous, pointing to divine power. Job 36:27-28 and Psalm 104:3 similarly marvel at God's control over waters and clouds. Modern meteorology explains mechanisms but doesn't diminish theological significance—natural laws are God's established patterns of governance.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does scientific understanding of natural phenomena enhance rather than diminish wonder at God's wisdom?
2. What does God's sustaining of natural systems teach about His faithfulness and reliability?
3. How should observing creation's intricacy affect our confidence in God's ability to sustain our lives?

Interlinear Text

צְרָר	מִם	בְּעָלָת	אַל	תְּבַקֵּחַ	עַל	אַתָּה
He bindeth up	the waters	in his thick clouds	H3808	is not rent	and the cloud	
H6887	H4325	H5645		H1234	H6051	

:תְּבַקֵּחַ

H8478

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 30:4 (Parallel theme): Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell?

Jeremiah 10:13 (Parallel theme): When he uttereth his voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens, and he causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of his treasures.

Isaiah 5:6 (Parallel theme): And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briers and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

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