

Job 36:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For he maketh small the drops of water: they pour down rain according to the vapour thereof:

Analysis

For he maketh small the drops of water (כִּי יְגַרֵּעַ נִטְפֵּי-מִים) —The verb gara (גָּרָע, "to diminish, withdraw") and noun neteph (נִטְפֵּה, drop) describe God drawing up water particles. This is ancient description of the water cycle: evaporation. The phrase **they pour down rain according to the vapour thereof** (יְזַעַּקְוּ מַטֵּר לְאַדּוֹן) uses zuq (זָעַק, "to pour out, filter") and ed (אַדּוֹן, mist, vapor). Elihu describes condensation and precipitation—God's control over meteorological processes. This anticipates modern understanding of evaporation-condensation-precipitation cycle.

Elihu's nature theology points to divine wisdom in creation (Psalm 104:13-14, 147:8). God's governance isn't merely moral but cosmic—controlling weather patterns. Jesus demonstrated this authority: calming the storm (Mark 4:39), "What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" The incarnate Logos (John 1:3, "all things were made by him") who designed the water cycle entered creation to redeem it (Colossians 1:16-20). Nature's order testifies to God's faithfulness (Genesis 8:22) and points toward new creation's restoration (Revelation 21:1).

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern cultures mythologized weather—Baal controlled rain in Canaanite religion. Israel's theology demythologized nature: Yahweh alone controls weather (Psalm 135:6-7, 147:8, Jeremiah 14:22). God withholds rain as

judgment (Deuteronomy 11:17, 1 Kings 17:1) and sends it as blessing (Leviticus 26:4, Deuteronomy 28:12). Elihu's description of the water cycle, though pre-scientific, accurately observes natural phenomena as divine design, anticipating modern hydrology while maintaining theological interpretation.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does observation of natural processes (like the water cycle) reveal God's wisdom and faithfulness?
2. What is the relationship between God's sovereignty over nature and Christ's miracles?
3. How should scientific understanding of natural phenomena inform rather than diminish theological wonder?

Interlinear Text

וְ	מַעַכְתָּ	תַּהֲרֵךְ	תַּהֲרֵךְ	תַּהֲרֵךְ	תַּהֲרֵךְ	תַּהֲרֵךְ
H3588	For	he	maketh	small	the	drops
	H1639		H5198		H4325	
					H2212	
						H4306

לְאַתָּה

according to the vapour

H108

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 147:8 (Parallel theme): Who covereth the heaven with clouds, who prepareth rain for the earth, who maketh grass to grow upon the mountains.

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