

Job 36:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, he spreadeth his light upon it, and covereth the bottom of the sea.

Analysis

Behold, he spreadeth his light upon it (הִנֵּה-פָּרַשׁ עַל־אֹור, hen-paras alav oro)—The verb paras (פָּרַשׁ, "to spread out, extend") and or (אור, light) likely refer to lightning spreading across clouds or sky. The phrase **and covereth the bottom of the sea** (וְשִׁרְשֵׁי הַיָּם קִסָּה, ve-shorshei hayyam kissah) uses shoresh (שורש, root, bottom) and kasah (קִסָּה, "to cover"). This may describe God's light penetrating ocean depths or covering the sea with clouds/darkness. The imagery emphasizes God's comprehensive control—from sky to sea depths.

God's sovereignty extends to all creation's extremes: highest heavens to deepest seas (Psalm 139:7-10, Amos 9:2-3). Lightning displays raw divine power (Psalm 18:14, 77:18, 97:4). Yet Christ walked on water (Matthew 14:25), calmed storms (Mark 4:39), demonstrating authority over creation's most fearsome elements. Revelation 10:5-6 depicts Christ standing on sea and land, swearing by Creator. The gospel reveals that creation's Lord entered creation as creature, subjected Himself to natural forces (hunger, thirst, weariness), died under creation's curse, then rose conquering all (Colossians 1:16-20).

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern cosmology portrayed sea as chaos requiring divine control. Baal myths featured conflict with sea-god Yam. Genesis 1:2, 6-10 presents Yahweh effortlessly ordering waters. Psalms celebrate God's mastery over seas (Psalm 29:3, 65:7, 89:9, 93:3-4, 107:23-30). Job 38:8-11 will depict God setting sea's

boundaries. Elihu's imagery continues this: God controls both atmospheric phenomena (lightning) and maritime depths. This theological claim against pagan cosmologies asserts Yahweh's exclusive, comprehensive sovereignty.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do natural phenomena like lightning and ocean depths reveal God's power?
2. What does Christ's authority over natural forces (storms, sea) demonstrate about His identity?
3. How should God's comprehensive sovereignty over creation affect our trust during life's storms?

Interlinear Text

בָּהֵן	פָּרָשָׁה	עַל־יְהוָה	אָזֶן	אַשְׁר־יְהוָה	בְּהֵן
H2005	Behold he spreadeth	H5921	his light	the bottom	H3220
	H6566		H216	H8328	

כָּפֹת
upon it and covereth
H3680

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