

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 (הֵן־פָּרַשׁ עָלָיו אֹרֹךְ, hen-paras alav oro)—The verb paras (פָּרַשׁ, "to spread out, extend") and or (אֹרֹךְ, light) likely refer to lightning spreading across clouds or sky. The phrase **and covereth the bottom of the sea** (וְשָׁרְשֵׁי הַיָּם כָּסָה, ve-shorshei hayyam kissah) uses shorash (שָׁרֵשׁ, root, bottom) and kasah (כָּסָה, "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

הֵן	פָּרַשׁ	עַל יוֹ	אֹרֹחַ	יְשֻׁרֵי יָם	הַיָּם
H2005	Behold he spreadeth	H5921	his light	the bottom	of the sea
	H6566		H216	H8328	H3220
כָּסָה:					
upon it and covereth					
H3680					
