

Job 37:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

At this also my heart trembleth, and is moved out of his place.

Analysis

Human Response to Divine Power: The Hebrew word תָּرַדְעַ (charad, "trembleth") conveys trembling from fear or awe, the same word used of the Israelites trembling before Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:16). Job's friend Elihu is responding to the thunder and lightning described at the end of chapter 36. **Physiological Reaction:** The phrase "moved out of his place" (Hebrew מִמְקָומָה וַיַּעֲלֶה, veyitar mimqomo) literally means "and it leaps from its place," suggesting his heart pounding or skipping beats from fear and wonder.

Literary Context: This verse introduces Elihu's final speech (37:1-24), which focuses on God's power manifested in nature—thunder, lightning, snow, and storms. Elihu's physical reaction models appropriate human response to divine majesty. **Theological Significance:** Unlike Job's three friends who spoke presumptuously about God, Elihu demonstrates reverence and awe. His trembling heart acknowledges human limitations before the Creator, preparing for God's direct response to Job in chapters 38-41.

Historical Context

Ancient Understanding of Weather: In the ancient Near East, storms and thunder were universally associated with divine activity. Unlike pagan cultures that attributed weather to multiple deities (Baal, Hadad), biblical faith understood natural phenomena as manifestations of the one true God's power and presence.

Setting of Job's Dialogue: The Book of Job is set in the patriarchal period

(approximately 2000-1800 BC), likely in the land of Uz (possibly Edom or northern Arabia). The intense thunderstorm described here would have been particularly dramatic in the semi-arid climate of the region. Such storms were both feared and welcomed as they brought life-giving rain to parched lands.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does Elihu's physical reaction to thunder teach us about appropriate human response to God's power in creation?
2. How does Elihu's reverent fear contrast with the attitudes of Job's three friends earlier in the book?
3. Why does God choose to manifest His presence through natural phenomena like storms rather than more direct communication?
4. What is the relationship between fear of God and true understanding of His nature?
5. How should modern believers cultivate a sense of awe before God's power in an age of scientific understanding of natural phenomena?

Interlinear Text

מִמְלֹкомָן אָתָּה לְזֹאת אַפְּנִים יְמַלְּאֵת רַבְּנָה
H637 At this trembleth also my heart and is moved out of his place
H2063 H2729 H3820 H5425 H4725

Additional Cross-References

Acts 16:26 (Parallel theme): And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

