

Job 37:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Also by watering he wearieth the thick cloud: he scattereth his bright cloud:

Analysis

By watering he wearieth the thick cloud (af-beri yat'riah 'av, אַף־בְּרִי יַטְרִיחַ אֵב)—The verb tara'ach (טָרַח) means to burden or load down; God 'burdens' clouds with moisture until they're heavy with rain. The noun 'av (אֵב) denotes thick, dark storm clouds. **He scattereth his bright cloud** (yafits 'anan 'oro, יַפִּיץ עָנָן אֹרֹחַ)—yafits means to scatter or disperse; anan (עָנָן) is cloud; or (אֹרֹחַ) is light or lightning.

Elihu describes two divine actions: loading clouds with water-weight, then scattering them with lightning-light. This combines God's nurturing provision (rain for crops) with His terrifying power (lightning strikes). The juxtaposition shows God's governance integrates opposite purposes—gentle watering and violent flashing—in a single meteorological event.

Historical Context

Ancient observers saw thunderstorms as divine warfare—clouds as God's chariots, lightning as His arrows (Psalm 18:12-14). Elihu demythologizes pagan storm-god myths while maintaining God's active involvement, presenting weather as divine artistry combining beauty (bright clouds) and power (wearisome weight).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do you see God's simultaneous gentleness (watering) and power (lightning) in your current circumstances?
2. What does it mean that God 'burdens' clouds before releasing rain—how might He 'burden' you with preparation before blessing?
3. Why does Scripture so often combine opposite divine attributes (nurturing/terrifying, gentle/powerful) in the same image?

Interlinear Text

אֶף	בְּרִי	יִטֹּב יִם	עַב	יִפֹּץ	עַנַּן
H637	Also by watering	he wearieth	the thick cloud	he scattereth	cloud
	H7377	H2959	H5645	H6327	H6051

אוֹרֹ:

his bright

H216

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 18:4 (Parallel theme): For so the LORD said unto me, I will take my rest, and I will consider in my dwelling place like a clear heat upon herbs, and like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest.

Job 36:32 (Parallel theme): With clouds he covereth the light; and commandeth it not to shine by the cloud that cometh betwixt.

Matthew 17:5 (Parallel theme): While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

