

# Job 37:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it is turned round about by his counsels: that they may do whatsoever he commandeth them upon the face of the world in the earth.

## Analysis

**It is turned round about by his counsels** (ve-hu mesibbot mithappek be-tahbulotav) (וְהִוא מְסֻבּוֹת מִתְהַפֵּךְ בְּתַהְבּוּלֹתָיו)—The verb hafak (הַפְךָ) means to turn or overturn; clouds rotate according to God's tahbulot (תַּהְבּוּלֹת), meaning 'guidance' or 'wise direction.' **That they may do whatsoever he commandeth them** (lefa'loam kol 'asher yetsavvem, כל אשר יצמַם) (לְפָעַל מָלֵךְ כָּל אֲשֶׁר יְצַמֵּם)—weather systems have a mission (po'al, פָּעֵל, 'work' or 'purpose').

Elihu presents meteorology as teleological—clouds don't drift randomly but execute divine assignments 'upon the face of the world' ('al-pene tevel, על-פָנֵי תְבֵל). The same verb tsavah (צָוָה, 'command') used for God's moral law applies to atmospheric obedience. This anticipates Romans 8:19-22: creation itself groans awaiting redemption, subject to God's sovereign purposes.

## Historical Context

Against ancient Near Eastern chaos-mythology where storms represented divine conflict, Elihu insists weather follows divine 'counsels'—deliberate wisdom-plans, not arbitrary caprice. This reflects Israel's unique understanding of creation as ordered cosmos under single sovereign will.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. If weather systems 'do whatsoever God commands,' how does this shape your theology of natural disasters?
2. What does it mean that clouds follow God's 'counsels'—His wise plans—rather than mechanistic natural laws?
3. How do you balance God's sovereignty over nature's violence with His character as loving Father?

## Interlinear Text

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כִּי לְפָעָל מִבְּתְּחִבּוֹלָתِ וְמִסְבֵּתָה וְהַאֲמִתָּה  
H1931 round about And it is turned by his counsels that they may do H3605  
H4524 H2015 H8458 H6467

רָאשׁ רַקְעַן מִצְבָּה עַל פְּנֵי תְּבִיבָה  
H834 whatsoever he commandeth H5921 them upon the face of the world H8398  
H6680 H6440 H3605

אָרֶץ  
in the earth  
H776

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 148:8** (Parallel theme): Fire, and hail; snow, and vapour; stormy wind fulfilling his word: