

# Job 37:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

How thy garments are warm, when he quieteth the earth by the south wind?

## Analysis

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**How thy garments are warm**—Elihu's rhetorical question exposes human dependence on God's atmospheric control. The Hebrew חֻמִּים (chammim, 'warm') describes the oppressive heat that makes clothing uncomfortable. When God **quieteth the earth** (הִשְׁקֵט אֶרֶץ, hashket eretz), He brings stillness and calm through **the south wind** (רוּחַ דָּרוֹם, ruach darom). In the ancient Near East, the south wind (from the Arabian desert) brought searing heat that quieted outdoor activity.

Elihu's point: if Job cannot understand basic meteorology—why warm winds make people uncomfortable—how can he question God's governance of moral providence? The question anticipates God's speeches (Job 38-41) where the Lord similarly uses creation to demonstrate human limitations. Paul echoes this humility: 'O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments!' (Romans 11:33). We cannot comprehend God's simplest works in nature; how arrogant to demand explanations for His moral governance.

## Historical Context

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Elihu (the youngest speaker, Job 32-37) represents a generation less bound by conventional wisdom that equated suffering with divine punishment. Speaking around 2000-1800 BC in the land of Uz, he observes Palestine's climate where southern winds from the Negev and Arabian deserts brought suffocating heat.

Ancient peoples lacked scientific meteorological understanding, attributing weather patterns directly to divine action—a theologically correct though scientifically incomplete perspective.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

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

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. If you cannot explain how God controls weather patterns, what does that reveal about demanding answers for why He permits suffering?
2. How does observing creation's complexity cultivate humility about questioning God's moral decisions?
3. What natural phenomena today still remind us of human limitations in comprehending divine wisdom?

## Interlinear Text

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אֲשֶׁר	בְּגָד יָךְ	חֹמֵי יָם	בְּהִשָּׁקֵט	אֶרֶץ	מִדְבָּרָם:
H834	<b>How thy garments</b>	<b>are warm</b>	<b>when he quieteth</b>	<b>the earth</b>	<b>by the south</b>
	H899	H2525	H8252	H776	H1864

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