

Job 37:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hear attentively the noise of his voice, and the sound that goeth out of his mouth.

Analysis

Hear attentively the noise of his voice, and the sound that goeth out of his mouth—Elihu calls Job to careful listening as a thunderstorm approaches. Shim'u shamoa (שִׁמְעָה שָׁמְעָה, hear, yes hear!) employs the intensive infinitive absolute —'listen most attentively!' The verb shama (שָׁמַע) means not just auditory perception but obedient hearing, the same word in the Shema: 'Hear, O Israel' (Deuteronomy 6:4). Rogez qolo (רָגֶז קָלוֹ, the roar/rumbling of His voice) uses rogez (רָגֶז), trembling or thunder, identifying the storm's rumble as divine speech.

Vehegeh mipiv yetse (וְהִגְהָה מִפְיוֹ יֵצֵא, and the murmur from His mouth goes forth) uses hegeh (הִגְהָה), meaning a low rumble, moan, or meditative murmur. This word appears in Psalm 1:2 for meditating on God's law day and night. The thunder isn't random noise but divine utterance—God's voice rumbling from His mouth. This anticipates God's actual speech from the whirlwind beginning in chapter 38. Psalm 29 develops this theology extensively: 'The voice of the LORD is upon the waters... The voice of the LORD breaketh the cedars' (vv. 3-5). Elihu prepares Job for theophany—God will speak, and nature's tumult is His prelude.

Historical Context

Elihu's speeches (Job 32-37) form a bridge between the failed counsel of Job's three friends and God's climactic self-revelation. Chapter 37 describes an approaching thunderstorm that becomes the vehicle for God's appearance. Ancient Near Eastern theophanies regularly featured storm imagery (Mount Sinai's

thunder and lightning, Exodus 19:16-19; Elijah's whirlwind, 2 Kings 2:1). Elihu, whose name means 'He is my God,' functions as a theological corrective, pointing beyond human wisdom to divine self-disclosure. His command to 'hear attentively' echoes Moses's call to Israel before receiving God's law.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. When has God spoken to you through creation's 'voice'—thunderstorms, wind, ocean waves—and what did you hear?
2. What does it mean to listen 'attentively' to God's voice in nature compared to casual observation or scientific analysis?
3. How does recognizing nature's sounds as proceeding 'from His mouth' change your experience of weather phenomena?

Interlinear Text

מִפְּרָאָרְךָ בְּרַבְּךָ שָׁמְעָנָךְ
Hear Hear the noise of his voice and the sound of his mouth

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תְּצַאֵנָךְ
that goeth out

H3318

Additional Cross-References

Job 36:33 (Parallel theme): The noise thereof sheweth concerning it, the cattle also concerning the vapour.

Job 37:5 (Parallel theme): God thundereth marvellously with his voice; great things doeth he, which we cannot comprehend.

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