

# Job 37:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And now men see not the bright light which is in the clouds:  
but the wind passeth, and cleanseth them.

## Analysis

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**And now men see not the bright light** (אור בָּהִיר, or bahir)—Elihu describes the sun obscured by clouds, invisible despite its brightness. Yet **the wind passeth, and cleanseth them** (רוּחַ עֲבָרָה וַתִּטְהַרֵם, ruach avrah vatehaherem). The verb טָהַר (taher, 'cleanse') is used for ritual purification—wind purifies the sky by dispersing clouds, revealing the sun that was always there.

The metaphor brilliantly addresses Job's complaint: God seems absent, hidden by suffering's clouds. But like the sun behind clouds, God's glory remains constant—only our perception is obscured. The passing wind represents God's sovereign timing in removing obstacles to clear vision. Jesus uses similar imagery: 'The wind bloweth where it listeth' (John 3:8), describing the Spirit's sovereign work. This verse anticipates Job's restoration when the 'clouds' of suffering disperse, revealing that God's favor never actually departed. Faith trusts the unseen sun during cloudy days.

## Historical Context

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Palestinian weather features sudden wind changes that rapidly clear cloudy skies, especially after winter rains. Elihu uses this observable phenomenon to teach theological truth. Ancient peoples, more attuned to weather patterns than modern indoor populations, would immediately grasp the metaphor. The imagery parallels Malachi 3:2-3, where God refines like fire to reveal pure gold.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

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

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. What 'clouds' currently obscure your view of God's goodness, and how might you trust the unseen reality behind them?
2. How does this verse comfort believers experiencing the 'dark night of the soul' when God seems absent?
3. In what ways does suffering function like clouds—temporary obscuration rather than permanent absence?

## Interlinear Text

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הָאֵל	לֹא	רְאוּ	אֵל	בְּהַיָּר	הָאֵל
H1931	H6258	H3808	<b>And now men see</b>	<b>light</b>	<b>not the bright</b>
			H7200	H216	H925
וְיִטְהַרֵם:	עַבְרָה	וְרוּחַ	בְּשָׁמַיִם		
<b>and cleanseth</b>	<b>passeth</b>	<b>but the wind</b>	<b>which is in the clouds</b>		
H2891	H5674	H7307	H7834		