

# 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

**And now men see not the bright light** (אוֹר בָּהִיר, or bahir)—Elihu describes the sun obscured by clouds, invisible despite its brightness. Yet **the wind passeth, and cleanseth them** (רוּחַ עֲרָה וַתְּפַקֵּד רָם, ruach avrah vatehaherem). The verb פָּקַד (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

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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ה	א	בָּהּ	ירֵא	א	וְרֵא	רֵא	וְרֵא	לֹא	וְעַתָּה	הָנָ
H6258	H3808	And now men see	light	not the bright						H1931
	H7200		H216	H925						
which	is	in	the	clouds	but	the	wind	passeth	and	cleanseth
H7834					H7307			H5674		H2891

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