

# Job 37:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He directeth it under the whole heaven, and his lightning unto the ends of the earth.

## Analysis

**He directeth it under the whole heaven, and his lightning unto the ends of the earth**—God's governance extends to lightning's path. Tachat kol-hashamayim yishrehu (תחת כל-השמים ישרָהו), under all the heavens He directs it) uses yashar (ישָׁר), meaning to make straight, level, or direct. The pronoun 'it' refers to God's voice/thunder from v. 2, but also to the lightning bolt itself—God aims each flash with precision. Tachat kol-hashamayim (under all the heavens) encompasses creation's entire expanse.

Ve'oro al-kanfot ha'aretz (וְאָרוּ עַל-קְנֻפֹת הָאָרֶץ), and His light to the wings/edges of the earth) personifies lightning as God's or (אור, light), striking to kanfot (קְנֻפֹת) wings/extremities/corners) of the earth. The word kanfot can mean literal wings or metaphorical edges—lightning reaches earth's furthest boundaries. This echoes Job 28:24, where God 'looketh to the ends of the earth, and seeth under the whole heaven.' What God sees, He governs. Lightning appears random and dangerous, yet follows divine direction. Jesus later teaches that God's providence extends even to sparrows (Matthew 10:29)—if lightning's path is directed, how much more individual lives?

## Historical Context

Ancient peoples feared lightning as uncontrollable divine wrath. Greek mythology attributed it to Zeus's weapon; Canaanite religion to Baal's arrows. Elihu's theology is radically different—the one true God directs each lightning strike

according to His purposes under all heaven. This universal sovereignty (not limited to Israel's territory) prepares for God's self-revelation as Creator and Sustainer of all cosmos. The language anticipates God's questions to Job: 'Canst thou send lightnings, that they may go, and say unto thee, Here we are?' (38:35).

## Related Passages

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

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does knowing that God 'directs' even lightning bolts affect your understanding of His detailed providence in your circumstances?
2. What's the relationship between God's governance over nature's most powerful forces and His care for individual human lives?
3. In what ways does Elihu's description of directed lightning prepare Job (and us) to submit to God's comprehensive sovereignty?

## Interlinear Text

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כָּל תְּפִתְחָה בְּשָׁמָּה יְמִינָה וְשָׁמֶן הַזָּהָב עַל אֹזֶן  
H8478 H3605 under the whole heaven He directeth and his lightning H5921  
H8064 H3474 H216

בְּאַרְצָה כָּנֶף וְתַחַת  
unto the ends of the earth  
H3671 H776

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 38:13** (Parallel theme): That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, that the wicked might be shaken out of it?

**Matthew 24:27** (Light): For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

**Isaiah 11:12** (Parallel theme): And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

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