

Job 37:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

After it a voice roareth: he thundereth with the voice of his excellency; and he will not stay them when his voice is heard.

Analysis

After it a voice roareth: he thundereth with the voice of his excellency—The Hebrew *qôl* (לִּיָּדָה) means 'voice' or 'sound,' used three times here to emphasize God's thunder as divine speech. **The voice of his excellency** (*qôl ge'ônô*, לִּיָּדָה גִּבּוֹרָה) uses *ga'on* for 'majesty' or 'exaltation'—the same word describing God's transcendent glory in Isaiah 2:10.

He will not stay them (lo' ye'aqqebem, לֹא יַעֲקֹבֵם)—God does not hold back the lightning bolts when He speaks. Elihu portrays nature's violence not as chaos but as God's articulate self-disclosure. This anticipates God's own thunderous speech from the whirlwind (Job 38:1), where divine voice and storm become one.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern peoples understood storms as theophanies—divine appearances. Unlike Canaanite Baal worship where storms were the god himself, Hebrew thought maintained God's transcendence: He commands the storm but is not identical with it. Elihu's theology bridges creation and revelation.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing God's voice in natural phenomena (thunder, storms) differ from pantheism or nature worship?
2. When has God 'thundered' in your life through circumstances that commanded attention without clear explanation?
3. Why might God choose overwhelming natural displays rather than quiet whispers to reveal His majesty?

Interlinear Text

אֲחֵרִי	יִשָּׁעַג	קוֹלוֹ:	וְרָעַם	קוֹלוֹ:	גְּאוֹן וְ	אֵל אֵל
After	roareth	it a voice	he thundereth	it a voice	of his excellency	H3808
H310	H7580	H6963	H7481	H6963	H1347	
וְלֹא יִשְׁכָּח	וְלֹא יִשְׁכָּח	וְלֹא יִשְׁכָּח	וְלֹא יִשְׁכָּח	וְלֹא יִשְׁכָּח	וְלֹא יִשְׁכָּח	וְלֹא יִשְׁכָּח
and he will not stay	H3588	is heard	it a voice			
H6117		H8085	H6963			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 68:33 (Parallel theme): To him that rideth upon the heavens of heavens, which were of old; lo, he doth send out his voice, and that a mighty voice.