

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* (קֹל) means 'voice' or 'sound,' used three times here to emphasize God's thunder as divine speech. **The voice of his excellency** (*qôl ge'ônô*, קֹל גְּאֹנָה) 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 יַעֲקֹבֶם)—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

וְאַתָּה	נִשְׁאָג	אָמַרְתָּ	קֹלֶךְ	רָעַם	וְ	קֹלֶךְ	גָּאוֹגָגְתָּ	אַל
After	roareth	it a voice	he thundereth	it a voice		of his excellency		H3808
H310	H7580	H6963	H7481	H6963			H1347	
וְ	עָזָבָה	קֹלֶךְ	שָׁמֶן	וְ	קֹלֶךְ			
and he will not stay	H6117	H3588	is heard	it a voice	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.

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