

# Job 37:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Out of the south cometh the whirlwind: and cold out of the north.

## Analysis

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**Out of the south cometh the whirlwind** (מִן-הַחֶדֶר תָּבוֹא שְׁוּפָה, min-heder tabo sufah, סְוֻפָּה)—The Hebrew heder (חֶדֶר) means 'chamber' or 'inner room,' suggesting God stores weather in celestial storehouses (Psalm 135:7, Jeremiah 10:13). Sufah (שְׁוֻפָּה) denotes a tempest or whirlwind. **And cold out of the north** (וּמִן-מְזָרִים קָרָה, u-min-mezarim qarah, מְזָרִים קָרָה—mezarim literally means 'scattering winds,' while qarah (קָרָה) is cold or frost.

Elihu's meteorological observation reflects ancient Near Eastern geography: southern desert storms brought dust-laden whirlwinds, while northern winds from snow-capped mountains brought freezing temperatures. Yet he sees natural patterns as evidence of divine design, not autonomous natural law. This 'chamber' language anticipates God's question to Job: 'Have you entered the storehouses of the snow?' (Job 38:22).

## Historical Context

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Pre-scientific meteorology explained weather through divine causation rather than atmospheric pressure systems. Elihu's directional specificity (south = whirlwind, north = cold) shows careful observation of Palestinian climate patterns, which he interprets theologically as evidence of God's ordered governance.

## Related Passages

## **Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ**

## **Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory**

## Study Questions

1. How does recognizing that God 'stores' and 'releases' weather from His chambers affect your response to life's sudden storms?
2. What natural patterns in your environment can you observe as evidence of divine design rather than random chance?
3. Why does Elihu emphasize the predictable directionality of weather (south/north) when arguing for God's sovereignty?

## Interlinear Text

מִלְּאָה:	מִמִּצְרַיִם	וְקָרְבָּה:	קָרְבָּה
H4480	<b>Out of the south</b>	<b>cometh</b>	<b>the whirlwind</b>
H2315		H935	H5492

## Additional Cross-References

**Job 9:9** (Parallel theme): Which maketh Arcturus, Orion, and Pleiades, and the chambers of the south.

**Isaiah 21:1** (Parallel theme): The burden of the desert of the sea. As whirlwinds in the south pass through; so it cometh from the desert, from a terrible land.

**Psalms 104:3** (Parallel theme): Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind: