

Job 37:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

Out of the south cometh the whirlwind (min-heder tabo sufah, מִן־הַחֲדָר תָּבוֹא סוּפָה) —The Hebrew heder (חֲדָר) means 'chamber' or 'inner room,' suggesting God stores weather in celestial storehouses (Psalm 135:7, Jeremiah 10:13). Sufah (סוּפָה) denotes a tempest or whirlwind. **And cold out of the north** (u-min-mezarim qarah, וּמִן־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

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

Psalms 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

מִן	הַ חֲדָרַי	תָּבֹא	סוּף הַ	וּמִמִּזְרַיִם	קָרָה:
H4480	Out of the south	cometh	the whirlwind	out of the north	and cold
	H2315	H935	H5492	H4215	H7135

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: