

Job 38:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

By what way is the light parted, which scattereth the east wind upon the earth?

Analysis

God's interrogation continues with questions about light distribution and wind patterns. The 'way' (derek, דֶּרֶךְ) implies an established path or route, asking Job if he understands the mechanics by which light is 'parted' (chalaq, חָלַק)—divided or distributed across the earth. The 'east wind' (qadim, קָדִים) in the ancient Near East was known as a destructive force, yet God scatters it according to His purposes. This verse reveals God's governance over natural phenomena that appear chaotic or random to human observers. The linking of light and wind points to God's orchestration of both the visible and invisible realms. Theologically, this challenges human presumption about understanding divine providence—if we cannot comprehend the physical mechanisms God uses to sustain creation, how can we presume to judge His moral governance? This prepares for the New Testament revelation that God's ways transcend human wisdom (Romans 11:33-36).

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern cultures often deified natural forces like wind and light, worshiping sun gods and storm gods. God's questions assert His absolute sovereignty over these forces, refuting pagan theology. The east wind was particularly feared in biblical lands as it brought scorching heat from the desert, destroying crops (Genesis 41:6). God's control over this destructive force demonstrates His authority over what humanity fears most.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereign control over natural forces that seem random or destructive inform your trust in His providence?
2. What aspects of God's governance do you struggle to understand, and how does Job 38 address that struggle?
3. In what ways do we still try to 'deify' natural forces or explain away God's direct involvement in creation?

Interlinear Text

אִי	זֶה	הַ דֶּרֶךְ	יָם לֵק	אֵל	יָפֵץ	קֵדִים
By what	H2088	way	parted	is the light	which scattereth	the east wind
H335		H1870	H2505	H216	H6327	H6921

עַלִּי	אָרֶץ:
H5921	upon the earth
	H776

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