

Job 38:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The waters are hid as with a stone, and the face of the deep is frozen.

Analysis

"The waters are hid as with a stone, and the face of the deep is frozen." God describes water's transformation to ice—liquid becoming solid "as with a stone" (kaeven, כָּאֶבֶן). Even the deep (tehom, תְּהוֹם), primordial waters representing chaos, freezes solid under God's command. This demonstrates God's power to transform and control even the most formidable natural forces. Ice formation's mystery (understood now but unknown then) illustrated God's comprehensive governance of all states of matter and conditions of nature.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern peoples in warmer climates would find ice formation mysterious and impressive. Even the chaotic deep, feared in mythology, becomes solid at God's word. This power demonstration would assure readers of God's absolute sovereignty over all threatening forces, natural or spiritual.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's ability to transform chaotic waters into solid stone encourage trust in His power?
2. What seemingly overwhelming or chaotic situations need to be reminded that God can freeze them solid?

Interlinear Text

כֶּן אֶבֶן	מֵי	וְתַחֲבֹה אֹר	וּפְנֵי י	תְּהִי הָעֹמ	וְתִלָּכְדוּ:
as with a stone	The waters	are hid	and the face	of the deep	is frozen
H68	H4325	H2244	H6440	H8415	H3920

Additional Cross-References

Job 37:10 (Parallel theme): By the breath of God frost is given: and the breadth of the waters is straitened.