

Job 38:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it,

Analysis

"When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it." The poetic imagery presents creation wrapped in clouds and darkness like an infant in swaddling clothes. The Hebrew *lebusho* (לְבָשׁוֹ, "garment") and *chatullato* (חֲטֻלָּתוֹ, "swaddling") suggest tender care alongside sovereign power. God portrays Himself as caring for primordial creation, clothing the earth before dry land appeared. This combines majesty (clouds and darkness) with intimacy (swaddling), revealing God as both transcendent Creator and immanent Provider who nurtures what He makes.

Historical Context

Swaddling was universal ancient practice for newborn care, symbolizing protection and proper development. The imagery would be immediately accessible to Job's audience. Unlike creation myths featuring violent divine conflicts, this presents creation as God's careful, loving work—simultaneously cosmic and intimate.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does viewing creation as God's carefully nurtured work affect our environmental stewardship?
2. What does God's tender care for primordial creation reveal about His care for you personally?

Interlinear Text

בְּשׁוּמִי י	עָנָן	לְבָשׁוֹ	וְעָרֶפֶל	חֲתָלְתָּו:
When I made	the cloud	the garment	thereof and thick darkness	a swaddlingband
H7760	H6051	H3830	H6205	H2854

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