

# Job 9:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Lo, he goeth by me, and I see him not: he passeth on also, but  
I perceive him not.

## Analysis

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Job laments God's imperceptibility: 'Lo, he goeth by me, and I see him not: he passeth on also, but I perceive him not.' The particle 'Lo' (hen, הֵן) calls attention to the paradox. God moves ('goeth,' avar, עָבַר) near Job, yet remains invisible. The parallel verbs 'see' (ra'ah, רָאָה) and 'perceive' (bin, בִּין) emphasize both physical and mental inability to detect God's presence. Job experiences divine absence despite theological conviction of divine omnipresence.

This verse articulates the 'hiddenness of God'—a theme throughout Scripture (Psalm 10:1, 13:1, Isaiah 45:15). God's presence doesn't always register in human experience. Job knows God acts but cannot see Him acting. This disconnect between theological knowledge and experiential awareness creates acute distress. Faith requires trusting God's unseen presence and purposes.

The incarnation addresses this problem: 'No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son... hath declared him' (John 1:18). Christ makes the invisible God visible. Job's longing for perceivable divine presence finds fulfillment in Emmanuel—God with us. The God who passes by unseen becomes the God who walks among us in flesh.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern religions used idols to make gods visible and accessible. Biblical monotheism's aniconic worship (no images) meant Israel encountered an

invisible God. This demanded faith rather than sight—a theme Job wrestles with as he seeks to perceive God's presence in his suffering.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How do we maintain faith when God seems absent despite theological certainty of His presence?
2. What does Job's experience teach about the difference between God's actual presence and our perception of it?
3. In what ways does Christ's incarnation address human longing to see and perceive God?

## Interlinear Text

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יְהוָה	יֵעֲבֹר	עָלַי	וְאֵל	אֶרְאֶה	! יִדָּל	וְלֹא
H2005	Lo he goeth	H5921	H3808	by me and I see	him not he passeth on	H3808
	H5674			H7200	H2498	
	אֲבִי יְהוָה	לִי				
	also but I perceive	H0				
	H995					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 35:14** (Parallel theme): Although thou sayest thou shalt not see him, yet judgment is before him; therefore trust thou in him.

**1 Timothy 6:16** (Parallel theme): Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

**Psalms 77:19** (Parallel theme): Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known.

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