

Job 9:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Which commandeth the sun, and it riseth not; and sealeth up the stars.

Analysis

Job declares God's command over celestial bodies: 'Which commandeth the sun, and it riseth not; and sealeth up the stars.' The verb 'commandeth' (amar, אָמַר) is the same used in Genesis 1—God speaks, and creation obeys or refrains. God can prevent the sun from rising, reversing creation's fundamental pattern (Genesis 1:3-5). To 'seal up' (chatham, חָתַם) the stars means to close, shut up, or hide them from view.

Job's point intensifies: God controls not merely earth but the heavens governing time and seasons. If God can stop the sun, suspend day/night patterns, and hide stars, human appeals to natural law or expected patterns mean nothing. The Creator isn't bound by creation's regularities—He can suspend them at will. This makes arguing based on 'what should happen' (the righteous should prosper) futile when God can rewrite the rules.

The Bible records instances of divine intervention in celestial mechanics: sun standing still (Joshua 10:12-13), sun's shadow moving backward (2 Kings 20:11), darkness at Christ's crucifixion (Matthew 27:45). These confirm Job's theology: natural law derives from divine decree, not necessity. God's covenant faithfulness (Genesis 8:22) guarantees nature's regularity, but His sovereignty means He can intervene when redemptive purposes require.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern religions often deified sun, moon, and stars (Deuteronomy 4:19). Job's description of God commanding celestial bodies affirms monotheism—these aren't deities but creatures obeying their Creator. The sun's rising was considered the most reliable natural phenomenon; God's ability to prevent it demonstrates absolute sovereignty.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does God's transcendence over natural law both threaten (He can suspend expected patterns) and comfort (He can intervene redemptively)?
2. What does Job's focus on God's power over nature teach about the relationship between creation and Creator?
3. In what ways do biblical miracles confirm Job's theology that God isn't bound by natural regularities?

Interlinear Text

הָאֵלֹהִים רַ	לִּי הָרִשׁ	וְלֹא אֶ	יִזְכֶּה ח	וּבָעַד	כּוֹכַבֵּי יָם
Which commandeth	the sun	H3808	and it riseth	H1157	the stars
H559	H2775		H2224		H3556
וְיִחְתָּם:					
not and seaeth up					
H2856					

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 13:10 (Parallel theme): For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

Amos 8:9 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord GOD, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day:

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