

# Psalms 18:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He made darkness his secret place; his pavilion round about him were dark waters and thick clouds of the skies.

## Analysis

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God made darkness His covering, His canopy around Him 'thick clouds dark with water.' The Hebrew 'sukkah' (covering/booth) and 'chashekah' (darkness) create paradox—God dwells in inaccessible light (1 Timothy 6:16) yet here in darkness. This suggests mystery and hiddenness. Reformed theology affirms God's incomprehensibility—even in revelation, He remains beyond full human grasp (Isaiah 55:8-9).

## Historical Context

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Storm imagery was common in ancient Near Eastern divine warrior portrayals, but uniquely applied to Yahweh who controls nature rather than being nature.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How do you respond to God's mystery and incomprehensibility?
2. In what ways does God's hiddenness actually protect or preserve you?

## Interlinear Text

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חָשָׁךְ תִּשְׁכַּח וְסַכְתָּה אַתָּה בְּקִבּוֹתְךָ יְהוָה  
He made darkness his secret place round about his pavilion him were dark  
H7896 H2822 H5643 H5439 H5521 H2824

מַיִם וְעַבְדִּים שְׁמַרְתִּים  
waters and thick clouds of the skies  
H4325 H5645 H7834

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 97:2** (Darkness): Clouds and darkness are round about him: righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne.

**Deuteronomy 4:11** (Darkness): And ye came near and stood under the mountain; and the mountain burned with fire unto the midst of heaven, with darkness, clouds, and thick darkness.

**Psalms 81:7** (Parallel theme): Thou calledst in trouble, and I delivered thee; I answered thee in the secret place of thunder: I proved thee at the waters of Meribah. Selah.

**Psalms 91:1** (Parallel theme): He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

**Joel 2:2** (Darkness): A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.