

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

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

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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

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

יָשַׁעַת	חַשְׁךְ	סֵתֶר ו	סְבִיבוֹתָ יו	סֶכֶת ו	חֲשֹׁכֶת
He made	darkness	his secret place	round about	his pavilion	him were dark
H7896	H2822	H5643	H5439	H5521	H2824
מַיִם	וּבְעָבִי	שָׁמַיִם:			
waters	and thick clouds	of the skies			
H4325	H5645	H7834			

Additional Cross-References

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.