

Elijah's body went up from this earth and penetrated what we would today call the sky. Certainly Elijah's spirit went into the very presence of God just as the spirit of any believer does.

LETTER 41
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**THE ISLAND OF THE INNOCENT
IN JOB 22:30**

The King James Version has translated Job 22:30 exactly as it stands in the Hebrew. It seems to have been the general practice of the King James translators to attempt to reproduce what the Hebrew contained, even where they might have thought that an other rendering would make better sense. At the opposite extreme, in this verse the RSV completely departs from the Hebrew, omitting the word "island", and changing the third person (he or it will be a deliverer) to a second person.

Most modern scholars assert that Eliphaz could not have said "the island of the innocent". While I do not know what he would have meant by this reference, I feel that many things in the speeches of Eliphaz and his associates may refer to matters known to them but not particularly clear to us. This particular Hebrew word is translated "isle" or "island" 36 times in the Old Testament, and never occurs there in the sense of "not", except possibly as an element in one proper name. An identical word, however, occurs frequently in post-Biblical Rabbinic Hebrew with the meaning "not". Most modern scholars assume that substitution of "not" for "island of" in Eliphaz's speech will make better sense. I myself am not sure that this is so. Eliphaz is pointing out the great blessings that he thinks will come to Job if he will only turn from his sin and ask God's forgiveness. Job insists