

**Job 12:1 ¶ And Job answered and said,**

**Job 12:2 No doubt but ye *are* the people, and wisdom shall die with you.**

**Job 12:3 But I have understanding as well as you; I *am* not inferior to you: yea, who knoweth not such things as these?**

**Job 12:4 I am *as* one mocked of his neighbour, who calleth upon God, and he answereth him: the just upright *man is* laughed to scorn.**

**Job 12:5 He that is ready to slip with *his* feet *is as* a lamp despised in the thought of him that is at ease.**

**Job 12:6 ¶ The tabernacles of robbers prosper, and they that provoke God are secure; into whose hand God bringeth *abundantly*.**

Job responds to his “friend” with a bit of sarcasm. My paraphrase: No doubt, you are all wise and wisdom will die with you. I am as wise as you are. My friends laugh at me now, but I have experienced God’s answer to my prayers. I am innocent no matter how you mock me. Men are so ready to mistreat and shame those that are suffering, while those that are wicked are allowed to prosper with security under God’s sovereign rule.

The obvious question torturing Job: Why?

**Job 12:7 But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee:**

**Job 12:8 Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee: and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee.**

**Job 12:9 Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the LORD hath wrought this?**

**Job 12:10 In whose hand *is* the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.**

Job is basically saying that every living thing knows that all life is dependent upon and is at the mercy of the LORD.

**Job 12:11 Doth not the ear try words? and the mouth taste his meat?**

**Job 12:12 ¶ With the ancient *is* wisdom; and in length of days understanding.**

Man depends upon his ears to determine the truth of what he hears as he depends upon his mouth to determine whether food is good or not. True.

It is believed that the older one gets, the wiser one gets. We know that is not necessarily true, though it should be; therefore, we cannot depend upon them like we depend upon God.

**Job 12:13 With him *is* wisdom and strength, he hath counsel and understanding.**

**Job 12:14 Behold, he breaketh down, and it cannot be built again: he shutteth up a man, and there can be no opening.**

**Job 12:15 Behold, he withholdeth the waters, and they dry up: also he sendeth them out, and they overturn the earth.**

Wisdom is from God—not from old men. It is God who gives us wisdom, strength, advice and direction. There is no one that can undo what He does. He has all power over His creation as proven by His control of the rain and waters of earth and their effect upon the earth.

**Job 12:16 With him *is* strength and wisdom: the deceived and the deceiver *are* his.**

**Job 12:17 He leadeth counsellors away spoiled, and maketh the judges fools.**

**Job 12:18 He looseth the bond of kings, and girdeth their loins with a girdle.**

**Job 12:19 He leadeth princes away spoiled, and overthroweth the mighty.**

**Job 12:20 He removeth away the speech of the trusty, and taketh away the understanding of the aged.**

**Job 12:21 He poureth contempt upon princes, and weakeneth the strength of the mighty.**

Job continues and declares that it is from God that we get strength and direction. Both the deceived and the deceiver are under His authority. He proves the counsel of men foolish. He removes kings, priests and other powerful people according to His will. Bottom line—man is dependent upon God for any wisdom and understanding man possesses.

**Job 12:22 He discovereth deep things out of darkness, and bringeth out to light the shadow of death.**

**Job 12:23 He increaseth the nations, and destroyeth them: he enlargeth the nations, and straiteneth them *again*.**

**Job 12:24 He taketh away the heart of the chief of the people of the earth, and causeth them to wander in a wilderness *where there is no way*.**

**Job 12:25 They grope in the dark without light, and he maketh them to stagger like *a drunken man*.**

Job knows that nothing is hidden from God. He raises up nations and destroys them at his pleasure. The actions of great men are subject to God's will; mighty men have no direction and act like drunkards without His provision.

Main point—God is All powerful, All wise, All seeing and All knowing! Man is dependent upon Him and can do nothing against Him.