

. Job 12
New King James Version (NKJV)

. Job 12
Job Answers His Critics

- . 1 Then Job answered and said:
 - . 2 “No doubt you are the people, And wisdom will die with you!
 - . 3 But I have understanding as well as you;
I am not inferior to you.
Indeed, who does not know such things as these?
 - . 4 “I am one mocked by his friends,
Who called on God, and He answered him, The just and blameless who is ridiculed.
 - . 5 A lamp is despised in the thought of one who is at ease;
 - . It is made ready for those whose feet slip.
 - . 6 The tents of robbers prosper,

And those who provoke God are secure— In what God provides by His hand.

. 7 “But now ask the beasts, and they will teach you; And the birds of the air, and they will tell you;

. 8 Or speak to the earth, and it will teach you;

. And the fish of the sea will explain to you.

. 9 Who among all these does not know That the hand of the LORD has done this,

. 10 In whose hand is the life of every living thing, And the breath of all mankind?

. 11 Does not the ear test words And the mouth taste its food?

. 12 Wisdom is with aged men,
And with length of days, understanding.

- . 13 “With Him are wisdom and strength, He has counsel and understanding.

- . 14 If He breaks a thing down, it cannot be rebuilt; If He imprisons a man, there can be no release.

- . 15 If He withholds the waters, they dry up; If He sends them out, they overwhelm the earth.

- . 16 With Him are strength and prudence. The deceived and the deceiver are His.

- . 17 He leads counselors away plundered, And makes fools of the judges.

- . 18 He loosens the bonds of kings, And binds their waist with a belt.

- . 19 He leads princes away plundered, And

overthrows the mighty.

- . 20 He deprives the trusted ones of speech,
And takes away the discernment of the
elders.

- . 21 He pours contempt on princes, And
disarms the mighty.

- . 22 He uncovers deep things out of darkness,
And brings the shadow of death to light.

- . 23 He makes nations great, and destroys
them; He enlarges nations, and guides them.

- . 24 He takes away the understanding of the
chiefs of the
 - . people of the earth,
 - . And makes them wander in a pathless

wilderness.

. 25 They grope in the dark without light,
And He makes them stagger like a drunken
man.

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