

Job 12

JPS [\[Online\]](#)

Job Presents His Case

¹Then Job answered and said:

²No doubt but ye are the people, And wisdom shall die with you.

³But I have understanding as well as you; I am not inferior to you; Yea, who knoweth not such things as these?

⁴I am as one that is a laughing-stock to his neighbour, A man that called upon God, And He answered him; The just, the innocent man is a laughing-stock,

⁵A contemptible brand in the thought of him that is at ease, A thing ready for them whose foot slippeth.

- 6**The tents of robbers prosper, And they that provoke God are secure, In whatsoever God bringeth into their hand.
- 7**But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; And the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee;
- 8**Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee; And the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee;
- 9**Who knoweth not among all these, That the hand of the LORD hath wrought this?
- 10**In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, And the breath of all mankind.—
- 11**Doth not the ear try words, Even as the palate tasteth its food?
- 12**Is wisdom with aged men, And understanding in length of days?—
- 13**With Him is wisdom and might; He hath counsel and understanding.
- 14**Behold, He breaketh down, and it cannot be built again; He shutteth up a man, and there can be no opening.
- 15**Behold, He withholdeth the waters, and they dry up; Also He sendeth them out, and they overturn the earth.
- 16**With Him is strength and sound wisdom; The deceived and the deceiver are His.
- 17**He leadeth counsellors away stripped, And judges maketh He fools.
- 18**He looseth the bond of kings, And bindeth their loins with a girdle.
- 19**He leadeth priests away stripped, And overthroweth the mighty.
- 20**He removeth the speech of men of trust, And taketh away the sense of the elders.
- 21**He poureth contempt upon princes, And looseth the belt of the strong.
- 22**He uncovereth deep things out of darkness, And bringeth out to light the shadow of death.
- 23**He increaseth the nations, and destroyeth them; He enlargeth the nations, and leadeth them away.
- 24**He taketh away the heart of the chiefs of the people of the land, And causeth them to wander in a wilderness where there is no way.
- 25**They grope in the dark without light, And He maketh them to stagger like a drunken man.