

# Job 12 - Job Responds to Zophar

## II. Dialogue (Job 3:1–42:6)

### (2) First dialogue cycle (Job 4:1–14:22)

#### (C) Job's exchange with Zophar (Job 11:1–14:22)

##### (b) Job's reply (Job 12:1–14:22)

###### (i) Job rejects his friends' council (Job 12:1–13:19)

(a) Job claims equality of knowledge in comparison to his companions (12:1-3)

(b) Job asserts his view (12:4-25)

(1) While innocent Job suffers and the wicked prosper (12:4-6)

(2) God controls all things (12:7-12)

(3) God's supremacy over the loftiness of men (12:13-25)

## Job 12

### (b) Job's reply (Job 12:1–14:22)

#### (i) Job rejects his friends' council (Job 12:1–13:19)

(a) Job claims equality of knowledge in comparison to his companions (12:1-3)

1 Then Job responded,

1 Then Job responded,

1 In response Job replied:

1 And Job answered and said,

2 "Truly then you are the people, And with you wisdom will die!

2 "Truly then you are the people, And with you wisdom will die!

2 "Truly, you are the people and wisdom will die with you!

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

3 "But I have intelligence as well as you; I am not inferior to you. And who does not know such things as these?

3 "But I have intelligence as well as you; I am not inferior to you. And who does not know such things as these?

3 Like you, I also have understanding. I'm not inferior to you; who doesn't know things like this?"

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

(b) Job asserts his view (12:4-25)

(1) While innocent Job suffers and the wicked prosper (12:4-6)

4 "I am a joke to my friends, The one who called on God and He answered him; The just and blameless *man* is a joke.

4 "I am a joke to my friends, The one who called on God and He answered him; The just and blameless *man* is a joke.

4 "I'm a laughingstock to my friends, someone who called on God. But then he answered this upright and blameless man, and I have become a laughingstock.

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.

5 "He who is at ease holds disaster in contempt, As prepared for those whose feet slip.

5 "He who is at ease holds calamity in contempt, As prepared for those whose feet slip.

5 The carefree are thinking, 'I have contempt for misfortune,' Those who are about to stumble deserve it.

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

6 "The tents of the destroyers prosper, And those who provoke God are secure, Whom God brings into their power.

6 "The tents of the destroyers prosper, And those who provoke God are secure, Whom God brings into their power.

6 The tents of robbers are at rest, and those who provoke God are secure, that is, those who carry their god in their pocket.

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

(2) God controls all things (12:7-12)

7 "But just ask the animals, and have them teach you; And the birds of the sky, and have them tell you.

7 "But now ask the beasts, and let them teach you; And the birds of the heavens, and let them tell you.

7 "Ask the wild animals, and they'll teach you; the birds of the sky will tell you.

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 have it teach you; And have the fish of the sea tell you.  
8 "Or speak to the earth, and let it teach you; And let the fish of the sea declare to you.  
8 Or ask the green plants of the earth and they'll teach you; let the fish in the sea tell you.  
8 Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee: and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee.

9 "Who among all these does not know That the hand of the LORD has done this,  
9 "Who among all these does not know That the hand of the LORD has done this,  
9 Who among all of these doesn't know that the LORD's hand made them,  
9 Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the LORD hath wrought this?

10 In whose hand is the life of every living thing, And the breath of all mankind?  
10 In whose hand is the life of every living thing, And the breath of all mankind?  
10 and that the life of every living thing rests in his control, along with the breath of every living human being?  
10 In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.

11 "Does the ear not put words to the test, As the palate tastes its food?  
11 "Does not the ear test words, As the palate tastes its food?  
11 The ear scrutinizes speech just as the palate tastes food."  
11 Doth not the ear try words? and the mouth taste his meat?  
12 "Wisdom is with the aged, *And with* long life *comes* understanding.  
12 "Wisdom is with aged men, *With* long life is understanding.  
12 "Wisdom may be found in the company of the aged. Understanding comes with longevity.  
12 With the ancient is wisdom; and in length of days understanding.

(3) God's supremacy over the loftiness of men (12:13-25)

13 "Wisdom and might are with Him; Advice and understanding *belong* to Him.  
13 "With Him are wisdom and might; To Him belong counsel and understanding.  
13 With God is wisdom and strength; counsel and understanding belongs to him.  
13 With him is wisdom and strength, he hath counsel and understanding.  
  
14 "Behold, He tears down, and it cannot be rebuilt; He imprisons a person, and there is no release.  
14 "Behold, He tears down, and it cannot be rebuilt; He imprisons a man, and there can be no release.

14 When he tears down, nobody rebuilds; when he incarcerates, nobody escapes.  
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 restrains the waters, and they dry up; And He sends them out, and they inundate the earth.

15 "Behold, He restrains the waters, and they dry up; And He sends them out, and they inundate the earth.

15 When he withholds water, rivers dry up; when he lets them loose, they'll flood the land.

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

16 "Strength and sound wisdom are with Him. One who goes astray and one who leads astray belong to Him.

16 "With Him are strength and sound wisdom, The misled and the misleader belong to Him.

16 "With God are strength and sound wisdom; both the deceived and those who deceive are responsible to him.

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

17 "He makes advisers walk barefoot And makes fools of judges.

17 "He makes counselors walk barefoot And makes fools of judges.

17 He leads counselors away naked; he turns judges into fools.

17 He leadeth counsellors away spoiled, and maketh the judges fools.

18 "He undoes the binding of kings, And ties a loincloth around their waist.

18 "He loosens the bond of kings And binds their loins with a girdle.

18 He strips away the authority of kings to punish and puts them in prison clothes instead.

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

19 "He makes priests walk barefoot, And overthrows the secure ones.

19 "He makes priests walk barefoot And overthrows the secure ones.

19 He leads away the priests naked and overthrows the ruling class.

19 He leadeth princes away spoiled, and overthroweth the mighty.

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

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

20 He keeps reliable advisors from speaking, and removes discernment from elders.

20 He removeth away the speech of the trusty, and taketh away the understanding of the aged.

21 "He pours contempt on nobles, And loosens the belt of the strong.

21 "He pours contempt on nobles And loosens the belt of the strong.

21 He pours contempt on nobles and embarrasses the mighty.

21 He poureth contempt upon princes, and weakeneth the strength of the mighty.

22 "He reveals mysteries from the darkness, And brings the deep darkness into light.

22 "He reveals mysteries from the darkness And brings the deep darkness into light.

22 He uncovers the hidden dimensions from darkness, bringing what is in deep shadow to light.

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

23 "He makes the nations great, then destroys them; He enlarges the nations, then leads them away.

23 "He makes the nations great, then destroys them; He enlarges the nations, then leads them away.

23 He makes nations great, and then destroys them; he enlarges nations, but then sends them away to captivity.

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

24 "He deprives the leaders of the earth's people of intelligence And makes them wander in a pathless wasteland.

24 "He deprives of intelligence the chiefs of the earth's people And makes them wander in a pathless waste.

24 He withdraws understanding from national leaders of the world, causing them to wander through uncharted wilderness.

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.

25 "They grope in darkness with no light, And He makes them stagger like a drunken person.

25 "They grope in darkness with no light, And He makes them stagger like a drunken man.

25 They grope in the dark without light; he causes them to stagger around like a drunkard."

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