

Handout: Job Chapter 12

Job 12:1–12

Job's response shows that he is beginning to lose patience with these men. He is pointing out that they have misapplied their knowledge in his particular case. They have not translated knowledge into wisdom.

Q: What is the meaning of verse 4?

In verse 5, Job attacks his friends saying in effect "it is easy for you to affirm the divine retribution principle when it seems to be working for you because you are not afflicted". This is actually a profound statement: why?

Q: What is Job saying in verse 6?

Evidence that the wicked prosper:

- Psalm 73:3–12
- Jeremiah 12:1–2

Q: Given how intelligent Job's three friends were, why do you think they missed this? It is patently obvious to us that the wicked prosper, so how could Job's friends not have realized this? Why, in the face of overwhelming evidence to the contrary, would they continue to assert that the DR principle always applies?

Verse 7: Here Job goes on the attack against his friends. Job is basically saying that the truth of his statement (that the wicked prosper) is so obvious that a cow or a bird could teach this to his friends.

Q: How is verse 7 ironic? Job 40:15-24

Verses 9-10: Another example of the argument "from the greater to the lesser"

Verses 12-13: Verse 12 is a truism that stems from the divine retribution principle. As men get older, they learn from their experiences and gain wisdom. However, Job rejects this truism because his view is that the wisdom of man cannot understand what God is doing.

Verses 14-15: These verses display the breadth of God's activities in the world.

Q: What is Job saying about God in the first half of verse 16?

Verses 17-25: In these verses, written in beautiful Hebrew poetry that rhymes, Job is making a compelling case for just how complicated God's ways are.

- **Verse 17:** Example of counselors and judges
- **Verse 18:** Example of kings
- **Verse 19:** Example of priests
- **Verses 20-21:** Example of wise elders and noble men
- **Verse 22:** Example of new discoveries
- **Verse 23:** Example of strong nations
- **Verses 24-25:** Criticism of Job's friends

Compare Job 5:17-26 with Job 12:13-25. How are these similar and different?

Application: World View Failures