

## Job Answers His Critics

### 1) Job's Sarcastic Rebuke.

**Job 12:1-3** Then Job answered and said: <sup>2</sup>“No doubt you *are* the people, And wisdom will die with you! <sup>3</sup>But I have <sup>[a]</sup>understanding as well as you; I *am* not inferior to you. Indeed, who does not *know* such things as these? (NKJ)

### 2) Misjudged by Men Yet Loved by God.

**Job 12:4-6** Yet my friends laugh at me, for I call on God and expect an answer. I am a just and blameless man, yet they laugh at me. <sup>5</sup>People who are at ease mock those in trouble. They give a push to people who are stumbling. <sup>6</sup>But robbers are left in peace, and those who provoke God live in safety, though God keeps them in his power. (NLT)

### 3) Wisdom Shown in Creation.

**Job 12:7-10** “But now ask the beasts, and they will teach you; And the birds of the air, and they will tell you; <sup>8</sup>Or speak to the earth, and it will teach you; And the fish of the sea will explain to you. <sup>9</sup>Who among all these does not know That the hand of the Lord has done this, <sup>10</sup>In whose hand *is* the <sup>[a]</sup>life of every living thing, And the breath of <sup>[b]</sup>all mankind? (NKJ)

**Isaiah 64:8** But now, O Lord, You *are* our Father; We *are* the clay, and You our potter; And all we *are* the work of Your hand. (NKJ)

The metaphor of God's hand usually conveys the image of strength or power.

**1 Chronicles 29:12** Both riches and honor *come* from You, And You reign over all. In Your hand *is* power and might; In Your hand *it is* to make great And to give strength to all. (NKJ)

### 4) Wisdom Belongs to God and Is Learned Over Time.

**Job 12:11-12** Does not the ear test words And the <sup>[a]</sup>mouth taste its food? <sup>12</sup>Wisdom *is* with aged men, And with <sup>[b]</sup>length of days, understanding. (NKJ)

**James 1:5** If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. (NLT)

## **"God Holds Wisdom and Power"**

### **1) God's Wisdom and Power Are Supreme.**

**Job 12:13** "With Him *are* wisdom and strength, He has counsel and understanding. (NKJ)

**Isaiah 9:6** For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (NKJ)

### **2) God Overrides Human Plans.**

**Job 12:14-15** If He breaks *a thing* down, it cannot be rebuilt; *If* He imprisons a man, there can be no release. <sup>15</sup> If He withholds the waters, they dry up; *If* He sends them out, they overwhelm the earth. (NKJ)

### **3) God Unmasks Human Leaders.**

**Job 12:16-22** To him belong strength and insight; both deceived and deceiver are his. <sup>17</sup> He leads rulers away stripped and makes fools of judges. <sup>18</sup> He takes off the shackles put on by kings and ties a loincloth<sup>[a]</sup> around their waist. <sup>19</sup> He leads priests away stripped and overthrows officials long established. <sup>20</sup> He silences the lips of trusted advisers and takes away the discernment of elders. <sup>21</sup> He pours contempt on nobles and disarms the mighty. <sup>22</sup> He reveals the deep things of darkness and brings utter darkness into the light. (NIV)

### **4) God Rules Over Nations and History.**

**Job 12:23-25** He makes nations great, and destroys them; He <sup>[a]</sup>enlarges nations, and guides them. <sup>24</sup> He takes away the <sup>[b]</sup>understanding of the chiefs of the people of the earth, And makes them wander in a pathless wilderness. <sup>25</sup> They grope in the dark without light, And He makes them stagger like a drunken *man*. (NKJ)

**"Be still, and know that I am God..."** (Psalm 46:10)