



# Eternal PERSPECTIVE Job

## BIBLE TEXT | JOB 12:1-25

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**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. Who does not know such things as these? **4** I am a laughingstock to my friends; I, who called to God and he answered me, a just and blameless man, am a laughingstock. **5** In the thought of one who is at ease there is contempt for misfortune; it is ready for those whose feet slip. **6** The tents of robbers are at peace, and those who provoke God are secure, who bring their god in their hand. **7** But ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the heavens, and they will tell you; **8** or the bushes of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. **9** Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? **10** In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind. **11** Does not the ear test words as the palate tastes food? **12** Wisdom is with the aged, and understanding in length of days. **13** With God are wisdom and might; he has counsel and understanding. **14** If he tears down, none can rebuild; if he shuts a man in, none can open. **15** If he withholds the waters, they dry up; if he sends them out, they overwhelm the land. **16** With him are strength and sound wisdom; the deceived and the deceiver are his. **17** He leads counselors away stripped, and judges he makes fools. **18** He looses the bonds of kings and binds a waistcloth on their hips. **19** He leads priests away stripped and overthrows the mighty. **20** He deprives of speech those who are trusted and takes away the discernment of the elders. **21** He pours contempt on princes and loosens the belt of the strong. **22** He uncovers the deeps out of darkness and brings deep darkness to light. **23** He makes nations great, and he destroys them; he enlarges nations, and leads them away. **24** He takes away understanding from the chiefs of the people of the earth and makes them wander in a trackless waste. **25** They grope in the dark without light, and he makes them stagger like a drunken man.



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## DEVOTIONAL FOR JOB 12:1-25

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Chapter 12 opens with us seeing the humanity of Job. He starts with a sarcastic remark directed at his friends, essentially saying, "Well, clearly, in your own wisdom you have this all figured out, so whatever will we do when you die and there's no more wisdom in the world?"

Then he gets serious and says, "No, you have the same human brain that I do," thus pointing out that none of us are superior to one another in wisdom, because God is the keeper of all true wisdom, and the only wisdom we have is that which He imparts. I can relate to Job and his friends here in my own life. I think it's natural for us to want to make sense of things, especially when walking through great difficulty. Before this, Job lived a pretty simple paradigm in which the righteous lived blessed and the wicked were afflicted. It's the same mindset of every childhood story - the good guys win and the bad guys get what's coming to them.

However, Job, who was known to be righteous, is now greatly afflicted, and it makes no sense. Along come his friends of great wisdom to try to make sense of it for him: He must have brought it on himself, because that's the only way they can wrap their brains around what has happened. But then Job, who has struggled well and sought God in his affliction, drops some truth on them. Job points out in Verse 13, "Wisdom and strength belong to God; counsel and understanding are his." Then in verses 14 through 25, he gives examples of ways God can flip the script on human thinking, showing very clearly that only He knows the who, what, when, where and WHY behind life circumstances. This can be difficult for us because it means the good guys don't always win in the earthly sense. It means we may not get to know exactly what is happening and why. It means that we must fully trust God even when life is painful and raw and not at all what we expected. We must trust that godly wisdom is far better than anything our human minds could muster and hold fast to His word, which tells us in the end the righteous win, but not in a finite, earthly way.

When all is said and done, those made righteous by the blood of Christ will win by inheriting the kingdom of heaven for all of eternity. Friends, this can be hard to remember when you're in the trenches and feel like enemy fire is coming from all sides. But Jesus anticipated this and told us, "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). It may not make sense, it may not feel good or right, but we can be at peace and know that it won't be like this forever. We have eternal hope in Christ. In the meantime, we can fully trust Him in all circumstances.



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## Questions:

1. How do you relate to Job in this passage? Do you find yourself questioning God's purposes in the moment when things are good? What about when things are bad?
2. In times of hardship or trouble, what informs your heart? Do you rely on the wisdom of friends or experiences, or do you look to God's Word and seek Him through prayer?
3. What areas of your life do you feel like God is asking you to give to Him? Are you living in total surrender to the Lord and His will? If not, ask the Holy Spirit to show you where you are falling short. Share this with your Journey Group!