### Job

## Chapter 12

1Then Job spoke. He said:  
  
 2‘Have you and the men who are with you  
 Reached the end of your wisdom?  
  
 3‘I too have a heart that’s like yours.  
 4But it seems that a man who’s righteous and just  
 Has only been born to be taunted!  
  
 5‘There’s a time appointed when each man must fall,  
 And for his house to be pillaged by crooks…  
 But, may the wicked not trust [in their ways].  
 For the guileless will [be given] support,  
 6While [the bad] will be taught by God’s rage.  
  
 7‘You could ask the four-footed creatures  
 (If they could give you an answer),  
 Or ask the things that fly in the sky  
 (If they could give a report)  
 8To explain all they know of the earth,  
 Or to even describe all the fish in the sea.  
  
 9‘Are there any among them that don’t realize  
 That they were made by God’s hand?  
 10For, in His hands are the lives of all things,  
 As well as the breath of every man.  
  
 11‘Men listen with their ears and examine each word,  
 Then they taste the meanings inside their throats.  
  
 12‘Wisdom is ancient, and knowledge is old,  
 13For from Him comes all wisdom and power…  
 Along with understanding and all good advice.  
  
 14‘So, if He chooses to tear something down,  
 Who can thereafter rebuild it?  
 And if He chooses to lock up a man,  
 Who can thereafter release him?  
  
 15‘If He should choose to hold back the rain,  
 All the lands would go dry.  
 But, He can also choose to release it,  
 To destroy them and wash them away.  
  
 16‘In Him, there’s both might and strength;  
 In Him, there’s knowledge and all comprehension.  
 17He strips council away from advisors,  
 And He [can also make fools of] earth’s judges.  
  
 18‘He’s the One who sets kings on their thrones  
 And who ties a sash ‘round their waists.  
 19But He’s also the One who sends priests off as slaves,  
 And can wipe away all the mighty.  
  
 20‘The lips of the honest, He understands,  
 And the words of the elders, He knows.  
 21Upon rulers, He can pour out dishonor,  
 While to those who are humble, He heals.  
  
 22‘He uncovers the darkness of very deep things,  
 And from the shadow of death, He can lead into light.  
  
 23‘He destroys the nations that stray,  
 And He cuts down those who mislead them.  
 24He knows the hearts of the rulers of lands,  
 And He leads them in ways they don’t know.  
  
 25‘So, may they corrupt the darkness, not light…  
 May they wander like they’re drunk.