**CHAPTER** **12**

*Job’s reply to Sophar. He extols God’s power and wisdom.*

**1** THEN Job answered, and said:

**2** Are you then men alone, and shall wisdom die with you?

**3** I also have a heart as well as you: for who is ignorant of these things, which you know?

**4** He that is mocked by his friends as I, shall call upon God and he will hear him: for the simplicity of the just man is laughed to scorn.

**5** The lamp despised in the thoughts of the rich, is ready for the time appointed.

**6** The tabernacles of robbers abound, and they provoke God boldly; whereas it is he that hath given all into their hands:

**7** But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee: and the birds of the air, and they shall tell thee.

**8** Speak to the earth, and it shall answer thee: and the fishes of the sea shall tell.

**9** Who is ignorant that the hand of the Lord hath made all these things?

**10** In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the spirit of all flesh of man.

**11** Doth not the ear discern words, and the palate of him that eateth, the taste?

**12** In the ancient is wisdom, and in length of days prudence.

**13** With him is wisdom and strength, he hath counsel and understanding.

**14** If he pull down, there is no man that can build up: if he shut up a man, there is none that can open.

**15** If he withhold the waters, all things shall be dried up: and if he send them out, they shall overturn the earth.

**16** With him is strength and wisdom: he knoweth both the deceiver, and him that is deceived.

**17** He bringeth counsellors to a foolish end, and judges to insensibility.

**18** He looseth the belt of kings, and girdeth their loins with a cord.

**19** He leadeth away priests without glory, and overthroweth nobles.

**20** He changeth the speech of the true speakers, and taketh away the doctrine of the aged.

**21** He poureth contempt upon princes, and relieveth them that were oppressed.

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

**23** He multiplieth nations, and destroyeth them, and restoreth them again after they were overthrown.

**24** He changeth the heart of the princes of the people of the earth, and deceiveth them that they walk in vain where there is no way.

**25** They shall grope as in the dark, and not in the light, and he shall make them stagger like men that are drunk.