

# Job 12:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He leadeth princes away spoiled, and overthroweth the mighty.

## Analysis

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God leads priests away as prisoners and overthrows the mighty. The Hebrew 'kohen' (priest) represented sacred authority, while 'ethan' (mighty/established ones) denoted those with long-standing power. Job asserts that even religious and entrenched authorities fall under God's sovereign judgment. This anticipates God's rebuke of Job's friends—religious professionals who misrepresented divine truth—and warns against presuming that position guarantees theological correctness.

## Historical Context

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The exile of priests occurred repeatedly in Israel's history, most notably in Babylon's conquest. Ancient Near Eastern cultures viewed priests as mediators with immutable religious authority, yet Israel's history showed God judging even His own priesthood when they failed in faithfulness.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's judgment of religious authorities warn against blind trust in human leadership?
2. What distinguishes legitimate spiritual authority from mere religious position?
3. How can church leaders guard against the presumption that position equals divine approval?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיַּעֲשֵׂה יְהוָה כַּאֲنַתִּים שׂוֹלֵל כְּבָנֵי יִם מִזְלָל יְהוָה:  
H1980      **princes**      H7758      **away spoiled**      H386      **the mighty**      H5557      **and overthroweth**

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