

Job 12:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

No doubt but ye are the people, and wisdom shall die with you.

Analysis

Job responds with biting sarcasm: 'No doubt but ye are the people, and wisdom shall die with you.' The Hebrew literally reads 'Truly you are the people'—Job mocks his friends' assumption that they possess exclusive wisdom. The phrase 'wisdom shall die with you' suggests they think themselves the repository of all understanding. Job's sarcasm reveals his frustration with their self-righteous certainty. They offer conventional wisdom as though it were revelation, unable to acknowledge that their theology fails to explain his situation.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern cultures highly valued elders and traditional wisdom. Job's friends assume their conventional theology represents absolute truth. Job's sarcasm challenges this assumption, asserting that wisdom requires humility to acknowledge what we don't know. The verse demonstrates that even true biblical principles can become idolatrous when we assume our understanding is comprehensive.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Job's sarcasm challenge our tendency toward theological certainty in complex situations?
2. What is the difference between confidence in God's revealed truth and presuming we understand all His ways?

Interlinear Text

אֲמָנָה	אַתָּם	לְעָדָה	עַמְּךָ	תִּמְמָה	אַתָּה	אַתָּם	כִּי	אֲמָנָה
No doubt	H3588	H859	but ye are the people	H5973	shall die	and wisdom		
H551			H5971		H4191			H2451

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