

# Job 12:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He poureth contempt upon princes, and weakeneth the strength of the mighty.

## Analysis

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God pours contempt on princes and loosens the belt of the strong. The verb 'shaphak' (pour) suggests abundant, overflowing contempt—not reluctant judgment but decisive humiliation of the proud. The loosened belt again signifies loss of authority and strength. Job's theology affirms God's active role in humbling the exalted, a theme that runs through Scripture from Hannah's prayer (1 Samuel 2) to Mary's Magnificat (Luke 1).

## Historical Context

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Ancient princes wielded absolute power within their domains. The imagery of God actively pouring contempt challenges ancient Near Eastern views of semi-divine kingship and anticipates prophetic judgments against prideful rulers.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

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

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's humbling of the proud shape how we handle positions of influence?
2. What current examples show God bringing down those who exalt themselves?
3. How should the certainty of divine judgment affect our ambitions and pursuits?

## Interlinear Text

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שׁוּפֹרֶת	בִּזְזוּת	עַל	נְדִיבֵי יָם	וְעֹז יָם	אֶפְיָקוֹן יָם
He poureth	contempt	H5921	upon princes	the strength	of the mighty
H8210	H937		H5081	H4206	H650
וְרַחַק:					
and weakeneth					
H7503					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 107:40** (Parallel theme): He poureth contempt upon princes, and causeth them to wander in the wilderness, where there is no way.