

# Job 12:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The tabernacles of robbers prosper, and they that provoke God are secure; into whose hand God bringeth abundantly.

## Analysis

**The tabernacles of robbers prosper** (ישְׁלָיו אֶפְלִים לְשָׁׂדִים) —Job's response to Zophar challenges the friends' simplistic retribution theology. The verb 'prosper' (shalah, שָׁלַח) means to be at ease, secure, or tranquil. 'Robbers' (shoddim, שָׁׂדִים) are violent plunderers, those who destroy and pillage. Job observes that the wicked aren't merely surviving but thriving in security—their 'tabernacles' (tents, homes) are peaceful, contrary to the friends' claim that sin always brings swift judgment.

**And they that provoke God are secure** (ובטחות ל'מְרַגִּיזֵי אֱלֹהִים) intensifies the paradox. Those who 'provoke' (ragaz, רָגַז) God—irritate, anger, or rebel against Him—nevertheless enjoy 'security' (batuchot, בָּטֻחוֹת), confidence and safety. **Into whose hand God bringeth abundantly** (אֲשֶׁר הַבְּיאָה אֶל-זָהָב לְיָדוֹ) completes the scandal: God Himself brings abundance into their hands. This observation echoes Psalm 73, Jeremiah 12:1, and Habakkuk 1:13—why do the wicked prosper? Job refuses pious platitudes, acknowledging reality's complexity.

## Historical Context

Job's response comes in his debate with Zophar, who insisted the wicked always suffer quickly (Job 11:20). Job counters with empirical observation: the wicked often prosper throughout life. This theme—theodicy, explaining God's justice amid visible injustice—pervades wisdom literature. Ancient Near Eastern wisdom texts

(like the Babylonian Theodicy) also wrestled with righteous suffering and wicked prosperity. Job's honesty about this tension prepared Israel to understand that final judgment, not immediate retribution, resolves injustice (Ecclesiastes 12:14, Revelation 20:12).

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How do you reconcile faith in God's justice with observing the prosperity of corrupt and violent people?
2. What does Job's refusal to deny obvious realities teach about honest faith versus platitudes?

## Interlinear Text

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אַל לִמְרַג יְהִי בְּטֻחוֹת לְשִׁׁידְרִים אֶפְלִים וְשַׁלְיִם  
prosper The tabernacles of robbers are secure and they that provoke God  
H7951 H168 H7703 H987 H7264 H410

בְּיָדָךְ לֹא שָׁאַל וְעַבְדָּךְ יְהָבֵד  
bringeth God into whose hand  
H834 H935 H433 H3027

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 9:24** (Parallel theme): The earth is given into the hand of the wicked: he covereth the faces of the judges thereof; if not, where, and who is he?