

# Job 15:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Which wise men have told from their fathers, and have not hid it:

## Analysis

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**Which wise men have told from their fathers, and have not hid it**—Eliphaz grounds his authority in generational transmission: chachamim (חֲכָמִים, 'wise men') received from avotam (אֲבוֹתָם, 'their fathers') and faithfully transmitted it (lo' kichadu, 'have not hidden it'). This appeals to unbroken tradition—what Christians call apostolic succession or tradita.

The problem: ancient, widely-transmitted teaching can still be fundamentally wrong. The book of Job represents a direct assault on traditional retribution theology precisely because it had been faithfully transmitted for generations. Longevity of belief doesn't validate it. Jesus made the same point challenging Pharisaic tradition (Mark 7:8-13). Truth claims must be evaluated on merit, not pedigree.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern cultures highly valued ancestral wisdom (Deuteronomy 32:7, Proverbs 4:1-4). Oral tradition carefully preserved teachings across generations. Eliphaz leverages this cultural value to give his theology unquestionable authority—a strategy the book systematically demolishes.

## Related Passages

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

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. When has 'this is what we've always believed' functioned to shut down necessary theological revision?
2. How do you honor tradition while remaining open to correction from scripture and experience?
3. What long-transmitted Christian doctrines might need re-examination in light of Job's challenge?

## Interlinear Text

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אֲשֶׁר	חֲכָמֵי יָם	יָגֵד יָדוֹ	וְלֹא	כִּי הִדְּוּ	מֵאֲבוֹתָם:
H834	Which wise	men have told	H3808	and have not hid	from their fathers
	H2450	H5046		H3582	H1

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 8:8** (Parallel theme): For enquire, I pray thee, of the former age, and prepare thyself to the search of their fathers: