

# Job 15:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Unto whom alone the earth was given, and no stranger passed among them.

## Analysis

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**Unto whom alone the earth was given, and no stranger passed among them**—Eliphaz claims the wise men's tradition comes from a pure, uncontaminated source: zar (זָר, 'stranger/foreigner') never passed among them. This appeals to ethnic and theological purity—their wisdom wasn't corrupted by outside influence. The phrase nittenah ha'aretz (נִתְּנָה הָאָרֶץ, 'the earth was given') echoes Genesis 1:28 and suggests original, Edenic wisdom.

The supreme irony: Job is set in the land of Uz (likely Edomite territory), Job and his friends are probably non-Israelites, and the book itself represents 'foreign' wisdom literature influencing Hebrew thought. The claim to pure, unmixed tradition is fiction. Moreover, Scripture repeatedly validates 'foreign' wisdom—Melchizedek, Jethro, Ruth, the Magi. Theological xenophobia always produces distorted truth.

## Historical Context

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Post-exilic Judaism increasingly emphasized separation from foreign influence (Ezra 9-10, Nehemiah 13). Some scholars date Job to this period as a counter-voice, reminding Israel that God's wisdom transcends ethnic boundaries. The book's non-Israelite setting deliberately challenges theological ethnocentrism.

## Related Passages

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

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

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

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. When has your theological tradition used 'purity' arguments to resist necessary correction from outside voices?
2. How does the church's history of learning from 'outsiders' challenge claims to pure, uncontaminated tradition?
3. What voices are today's Eliphaz-figures excluding as 'strangers' who might actually speak God's truth?

## Interlinear Text

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לֵּהָם	לְבָדָם	נָתַן ה'	הָאֵל הַיָּחִיד	וְלֹא	עָבַר
H0	H905	was given	Unto whom alone the earth	H3808	passed
		H5414	H776		H5674
וְלֹא	בְּתוֹכָם:				
and no stranger	among				
H2114	H8432				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Joel 3:17** (Parallel theme): So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more.

