

# Job 32:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Lest ye should say, We have found out wisdom: God thrusteth him down, not man.

## Analysis

Elihu warns: 'Lest ye should say, We have found out wisdom: God thrusteth him down, not man.' The phrase matsanu chokmah (מִצְאָנוּ חָכָמָה, we have found wisdom) suggests the friends thought they comprehended Job's situation. Elihu cautions against claiming to possess wisdom that belongs to God alone. The phrase 'God thrusteth him down' (El yiddefennu, אֵל יִדְפֹּא!) means God defeats or repels him. Elihu argues that Job's case requires divine, not human, resolution. Only God can adequately answer Job; human wisdom fails.

## Historical Context

Elihu's warning addresses the friends' presumption throughout the dialogues—they claimed to understand God's purposes in Job's suffering. Elihu recognizes their failure and prepares for God's direct intervention. The verse teaches epistemological humility: some questions exceed human wisdom and require divine revelation. This prepares readers for God's speeches where divine wisdom will supersede all human attempts at explanation.

## Related Passages

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

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

## Study Questions

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1. How does Elihu's warning challenge our tendency to claim we understand what only God knows?
2. What is the proper balance between seeking wisdom and acknowledging that some matters require divine revelation?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאַתָּה אָמַרְתָּ מֵאַנְתָּךְ חָכָם הָאֱלֹהִים יְשַׁׁלֵּחַ אֶלְכֶּךָ  
H6435 **Lest ye should say** H559 We have found out H4672 **wisdom** H2451 **God** H410 **thrusteth him down** H5086

לֹא אִישׁ  
H3808 **not man** H376

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 9:23** (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:

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