

Job 32:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Great men are not always wise: neither do the aged understand judgment.

Analysis

Elihu challenges age's authority: 'Great men are not always wise: neither do the aged understand judgment.' This democratizes wisdom - age doesn't guarantee understanding. The Spirit gives wisdom regardless of years.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern culture revered age as source of wisdom. Elihu's challenge is countercultural, though his own speech proves that youth doesn't guarantee wisdom either.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What makes someone truly wise beyond mere age or experience?
2. How do you balance respect for elders with recognition that age doesn't guarantee wisdom?

Interlinear Text

לֹא	רַב־יָם	יִחְכֵּם מִוֶּזְקֵן יָם	וְזֶקֶן יָם	יָבִינֹהוּ	חֲשָׁפֶט:
H3808	Great men	are not always wise	neither do the aged	understand	judgment
	H7227	H2449	H2205	H995	H4941

Additional Cross-References

Job 12:20 (Parallel theme): He removeth away the speech of the trusty, and taketh away the understanding of the aged.

Ecclesiastes 4:13 (Parallel theme): Better is a poor and a wise child than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished.

Matthew 11:25 (Parallel theme): At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.