

# Job 34:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Job hath spoken without knowledge, and his words were without wisdom.

## Analysis

**Job hath spoken without knowledge** (אִיּוֹב לֹא-דָבָר יָדָבֵר) — The noun *da'at* (דָּעַת, knowledge) indicates understanding, not mere information. Elihu accuses Job of speaking ignorantly. The phrase **his words were without wisdom** (וְדָבָרָיו לֹא בְּפָשָׁל) uses *sekel* (שְׁכָל), understanding, insight). This echoes Eliphaz's earlier accusation (Job 15:2-3). Yet God will vindicate Job's speech over the friends (42:7): "ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath." Elihu's judgment is premature and partially wrong.

This teaches discernment: sincere theological argumentation can reach wrong conclusions. Elihu isn't malicious, yet he misunderstands. Proverbs 18:13 warns: "He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him." The gospel reveals knowledge's limits: "we know in part" (1 Corinthians 13:9). Ultimate knowledge comes through revelation of Christ (Colossians 2:3, "in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge"). We must speak with epistemic humility, acknowledging the limits of human understanding.

## Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern wisdom culture valued eloquent, persuasive speech. Yet Israelite tradition subordinated rhetorical skill to truth and divine revelation. Prophets often spoke simple, even offensive messages (Amos 7:14-15, "I was no prophet... but the LORD said unto me, Go, prophesy"). Jesus's teaching astonished

because He spoke "with authority" (Mark 1:22), not rhetorical polish. God's vindication of Job over more eloquent friends teaches content matters more than form.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

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

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How can we speak theologically with confidence while maintaining appropriate humility?
2. What does God's vindication of Job teach about the relationship between suffering and speaking rightly about God?
3. How does Christ as God's ultimate Word (John 1:1) redefine knowledge and wisdom?

## Interlinear Text

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לֹא אָמַר בְּלִבְנֵי יִהְיֶה רַבְנָתָה לֹא אָמַר  
**Job** H3808 **without knowledge** H1847 **hath spoken** H1696 **and his words** H1697 H3808

בַּהֲשִׁפְלָה:  
**were without wisdom**  
H7919

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 35:16** (Word): Therefore doth Job open his mouth in vain; he multiplieth words without knowledge.

**Job 38:2** (Word): Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?

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