

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־בִדְעָתָא, Iyyov lo-veda'at yedabber)—The noun da'at (דַּעַת, knowledge) indicates understanding, not mere information. Elihu accuses Job of speaking ignorantly. The phrase **his words were without wisdom** (וְדִבְרָיו לֹא בְהַשְׂכִּיל, udevarav lo vehaskel) uses sekel (שֵׂכֶל, 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

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

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

לֹא	אֶיּוֹב	בְּדַעַת	וְדִבַּר	וְדִבַּר יְיָ	לֹא
Job	H3808	without knowledge	hath spoken	and his words	H3808
H347		H1847	H1696	H1697	

בְּהִשְׁכָּלִי:
were without wisdom
H7919

Additional Cross-References

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?

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org