

Job

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Job 28

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Vss. 1-11

- Once upon a time, before we started building "unsinkable" ships, and believed that there was nothing on earth or in the universe we could master, the ancient poets understood the limitations of human beings and the recognized the unknowable wisdom of God. Here in these verses we find that we will go to great lengths to gain all that we believe to be valuable, but we can never reach the wisdom of God. For Job this is a reality check. He is coming to terms with the Truth that he may never get the answers he's so desperately looking for.
- In these first 11 verses, Job looks at the things people view as valuable and precious and the efforts we will go to possess them. He leads off with silver and gold, the most common precious metals. Then he mentions iron and copper, practical minerals used for the making of war materials, cooking utensils and work tools, coins and construction materials. And how do we get them? We have to mine them, dig them out down in the dark holes. We have to illuminate the mine shafts, "put an end to darkness", and dig new shafts into the valleys. And where are the mines to be found? Gold was imported from Ophir and Sheba and silver at least from Egypt if not beyond. Iron and copper could be found in Cyprus, Edom, or Sinai. How far, to what distance will people go to have what is precious to them?
- The surface of the earth produces bread, but the earth below the surface looks as if it has been burned by fire. But what has it produced? Sapphires and gold! These are the precious things people by their ingenuity and hard work may have. The falcon with his keen eyesight has not seen it and the great beasts of the earth have not traveled into the earth's depth to know these things.
- Nothing will stop humanity in its search for riches. We will literally overturn mountains and cut deep channels through the rock. We will "dam up the streams from flowing to bring to light what is hidden."

Vss. 12-22

- Here is a prime example of how Job's thinking is on another level from his three friends. People will go to incredible lengths to gain riches and treasure, "But where can wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding?" Gold, silver, sapphires, even iron and copper have very limited



value if not combined with wisdom. How often have people held great riches only to have them slip through their fingers due to lack of wisdom?

- In vs. 13 Job laments when speaking of wisdom, “Mankind does not know its value, nor is it found in the land of the living.” He says this because we seem to make the same mistakes over and over. We look at the world and misread it, coming again and again to the wrong conclusions. We may dig into the earth for its riches and unpack the secrets of science, but we seem incapable of discovering wisdom.
- We cannot find wisdom in the deepest ocean or in the finest marketplace. Neither gold nor silver, not the finest jewels, nor the most exquisite glass, onyx, or coral, nor even fine pearls may purchase or be traded for wisdom.
- “Where then does wisdom come from? And where is this place of understanding? It is hidden from the eyes of every living creature and concealed from the birds of the sky”, who have the sharpest eyes on earth! So where then could it be? For even the underworld place of destruction and Death have only heard rumors of wisdom’s source.

Vss. 23-28

- What Job recognizes is that what is completely beyond humanity’s grasp, is but a natural thing for God. John D.W. Watts says, “He (God) is the key to wisdom. He knows where it is to be found and all about its ways.”
- Job goes back to Creation pointing how God is able to see all the earth at once, how He demonstrated His wisdom by measuring out the power of wind and limiting the place of the waters of the earth. God “made a limit for the rain and a course for the thunderbolt. Then He saw it and declared it. He established it and also searched it out.” Whereas our lack of wisdom causes us to waste what is precious, God demonstrates His own wisdom in creating a perfect world.
- Vs. 28 – It is as if God were speaking, but Job declares, “...the fear (worship) of the Lord, that is wisdom. And to turn away from evil is understanding.” This is similar to Psalm 111:10. “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. All those who follow His commandments have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.” You find similar thought in Proverbs 1:7 and 9:10. Thus in Job’s time, King David’s time, and in our own, the closer you get to God, the more likely you will discover wisdom, His wisdom.