

The Book of Job

The Unsearchable Wisdom of God



LESSON 10
WHERE IS WISDOM FOUND?

Chiastic Outline of Job



A. Job's Afflictions (1–2)

B. Job's First Response (3)

C. 3 Cycles of Debate (4–27)

D. Wisdom Poem (28)

C'. 3 Major Speeches (29–41)

B'. Job's Second Response (42:1–9)

A'. Job's Prosperity (42:10–17)

Job 28 - Speaker



- Later addition by editor
- Job?
- Author's point of view



Wisdom



- חִכְמָה **chokmah** (khok-maw') n-f.
 - wisdom (in a good sense)
- 1. Skill or intelligence
 - Exodus 28:3; 31:3, 6; Isaiah 10:13
- 2. Moral or theological
 - Proverbs 1:1 – 6, 20 – 21
- 3. Inner Thoughts of God

Seven Distinctives of Biblical Wisdom Literature (vs. Election Literature)



Election

- Morality comes from the Torah/Law
- Time-sensitive covenants
- Torah was for Israel

Wisdom

- Moral order built into creation
- Timeless
- Wisdom is universal

Three Considerations of God's Surpassing Wisdom

1. Ingenuity: Man Seeks Treasure (28:1 – 11)



Job 28:1 “Surely there is a mine for silver, and a place for gold that they refine.

2 Iron is taken out of the earth, and copper is smelted from the ore.

3 Man puts an end to darkness and searches out to the farthest limit the ore in gloom and deep darkness.

4 He opens shafts in a valley away from where anyone lives; they are forgotten by travelers; they hang in the air, far away from mankind; they swing to and fro.

5 As for the earth, out of it comes bread, but underneath it is turned up as by fire.

6 Its stones are the place of sapphires, and it has dust of gold.

Three Considerations of God's Surpassing Wisdom

1. Ingenuity: Man Seeks Treasure (28:1 – 11)



7 “That path no bird of prey knows, and the falcon's eye has not seen it.

8 The proud beasts have not trodden it; the lion has not passed over it.

9 “Man puts his hand to the flinty rock and overturns mountains by the roots.

10 He cuts out channels in the rocks, and his eye sees every precious thing.

11 He dams up the streams so that they do not trickle, and the thing that is hidden he brings out to light.

Three Considerations of God's Surpassing Wisdom

1. Ingenuity: Man Seeks Treasure (28:1 – 11)



- There are treasures buried in the earth, things of great value that are not easily obtained.
- Man goes to great efforts to discover these precious materials and dig them out of the earth.
- חֹשֶׁךְ “darkness” (Can refer to cosmic darkness, and a spiritual condition as well as the intended meaning here of the physical darkness in the interior of the earth).
- Neither seeking or taking note of precious metals and stones, the animals do not discern value as humans do.

Three Considerations of God's Surpassing Wisdom

2. Impossibility: No One Finds Wisdom (28:12 – 22)



Job 28:12 “But where shall wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding?”

13 Man does not know its worth, and it is not found in the land of the living.

14 The deep says, ‘It is not in me,’ and the sea says, ‘It is not with me.’

15 It cannot be bought for gold, and silver cannot be weighed as its price.

16 It cannot be valued in the gold of Ophir, in precious onyx or sapphire.

17 Gold and glass cannot equal it, nor can it be exchanged for jewels of fine gold.

Three Considerations of God's Surpassing Wisdom

2. Impossibility: No One Finds Wisdom (28:12 – 22)



18 No mention shall be made of coral or of crystal; the price of wisdom is above pearls.

19 The topaz of Ethiopia cannot equal it, nor can it be valued in pure gold.

20 “From where, then, does wisdom come? And where is the place of understanding?”

21 It is hidden from the eyes of all living and concealed from the birds of the air.

22 Abaddon and Death say, ‘We have heard a rumor of it with our ears.’

Three Considerations of God's Surpassing Wisdom

2. Impossibility: No One Finds Wisdom (28:12 – 22)



- Contrast between value of precious metals and wisdom.
- Man does not possess this wisdom.
- It cannot be valued in terms material wealth at all.
- Abaddon is the realm of the dead.
- It's an impossibility: No one finds *this* wisdom. You cannot find it, you cannot buy it.

Three Considerations of God's Surpassing Wisdom

3. Inscrutability: The God of All Wisdom (28:23–28)



Job 28:23 “God understands the way to it, and he knows its place.

24 For he looks to the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens.

25 When he gave to the wind its weight and apportioned the waters by measure,

26 when he made a decree for the rain and a way for the lightning of the thunder,

27 then he saw it and declared it; he established it, and searched it out.

28 And he said to man, ‘Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding.’”

Three Considerations of God's Surpassing Wisdom

3. Inscrutability: The God of All Wisdom (28:23–28)



- **Ps 104:24** O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.
- **Isa 46:9-10** remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose'

Three Considerations of God's Surpassing Wisdom

3. Inscrutability: The God of All Wisdom (28:23–28)



- There is a wisdom of God that is beyond human understanding.
 - **Deut 29:29** “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.
- When circumstances would cause us to question God, instead we must trust Him.
- Works in keeping with repentance characterize true fear of the Lord.

Three Considerations of God's Surpassing Wisdom

3. Inscrutability: The God of All Wisdom (28:23–28)



- “Wisdom” parallels “Understanding”
- “Fear of the Lord” parallels “Turning from evil”
- Man’s wisdom is Retribution Theology (even as the way to heaven).
- But God chose the cross
 - (1 Cor 2:1–9)