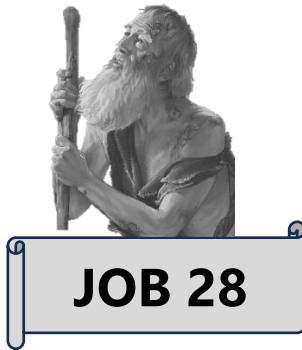


Job: the Search for Wisdom



- Why? questions

HUMANITY has SUCCEEDED in FINDING GOLD (28:1-11)

(the celebration of human wisdom)

- ▶ gold mining is difficult and dangerous (vv. 1-6)

- ▶ but humans have succeeded (vv. 7-11) ¹

HUMANITY has FAILED to FIND WISDOM (28:12-22)

(the limitation of human wisdom)

- ▶ humanity can't find wisdom (vv. 12-14, 20-22) ²

- ▶ this is tragic because wisdom is priceless (vv. 15-19)

GOD ALONE KNOWS the WAY to WISDOM (28:23-27)

(God's the revelation of all wisdom)

- ▶ God knows the way (vv. 23-27) ³

- ▶ God has revealed it to us (v. 28) ⁴



¹ **Gen. 1:26-28** All humans were created in God's image and given "the cultural mandate" to exercise dominion over the earth, subdue it, and develop its potential resources for the glory of God.

² **Revelation 9:11**

³ **Proverbs 8:27-30**; Michael Reeves, *What Does it Mean to Fear the Lord?* (Crossway, 2021); in the Old Testament the expression "fear of the Lord" has a range of meanings from respect to reverence to fright to utter terror. How do we interpret rightly? Context is king.

⁴ **Psalm 33:8; Isaiah 11:3; Job 1:1; 2:3**; the New Testament identifies Jesus as wisdom from God: **Colossians 2:3; 1 Corinthians 1:24, 30.**

Job 28

- ¹ There is a mine for silver
and a place where gold is refined.
- ² Iron is taken from the earth,
and copper is smelted from ore.
- ³ Mortals put an end to the darkness;
they search out the farthest recesses
for ore in the blackest darkness.
- ⁴ Far from human dwellings they cut a shaft,
in places untouched by human feet;
far from other people they dangle and sway.
- ⁵ The earth, from which food comes,
is transformed below as by fire;
- ⁶ lapis lazuli comes from its rocks,
and its dust contains nuggets of gold.
- ⁷ No bird of prey knows that hidden path,
no falcon's eye has seen it.
- ⁸ Proud beasts do not set foot on it,
and no lion prowls there.
- ⁹ People assault the flinty rock with their hands
and lay bare the roots of the mountains.
- ¹⁰ They tunnel through the rock;
their eyes see all its treasures.
- ¹¹ They search the sources of the rivers
and bring hidden things to light.
- ¹² But where can wisdom be found?
Where does understanding dwell?
- ¹³ No mortal comprehends its worth;
it cannot be found in the land of the living.
- ¹⁴ The deep says, "It is not in me";
the sea says, "It is not with me."
- ¹⁵ It cannot be bought with the finest gold,
nor can its price be weighed out in silver.
- ¹⁶ It cannot be bought with the gold of Ophir,
with precious onyx or lapis lazuli.
- ¹⁷ Neither gold nor crystal can compare with it,
nor can it be had for jewels of gold.
- ¹⁸ Coral and jasper are not worthy of mention;
the price of wisdom is beyond rubies.
- ¹⁹ The topaz of Cush cannot compare with it;
it cannot be bought with pure gold.
- ²⁰ Where then does wisdom come from?
Where does understanding dwell?
- ²¹ It is hidden from the eyes of every living thing,

- concealed even from the birds in the sky.
- ²² Destruction and Death say,
"Only a rumor of it has reached our ears."
- ²³ God understands the way to it
and he alone knows where it dwells,
- ²⁴ for he views the ends of the earth
and sees everything under the heavens.
- ²⁵ When he established the force of the wind
and measured out the waters,
- ²⁶ when he made a decree for the rain
and a path for the thunderstorm,
- ²⁷ then he looked at wisdom and appraised it;
he confirmed it and tested it.
- ²⁸ And he said to the human race,
"The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom,
and to shun evil is understanding."

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Translation Notes:

- v. 6, 16 **Lapis lazuli** is a precious blue gemstone still mined today, possibly a sapphire.
- v. 16 **Ophir** is an unidentified biblical place rich in fine gold and other significant materials.
- v. 19 **Cush** is the region of the Upper Nile, roughly Ethiopia.
- v. 22 **Destruction and Death** are capitalized because these two non-human descriptions are poetically pictured as talking humans (personification).
- v. 22 **Destruction** (NIV)/**Abaddon** (ESV) is a synonym for the grave or Sheol of the netherworld in its 6 Old Testament occurrences (Job 26:6; 28:22; 31:12; Ps. 88:11; Prov. 15:11; 27:20).

The General Structure of Job 3-28

