

Job 28 - Wisdom is Sourced in God

II. Dialogue (Job 3:1—42:6)

(4) Third dialogue cycle (Job 22:1—31:40)

(B) Job's exchange with Bildad (Job 25:1—28:28)

(b) Job's reply (Job 26:1—28:28)

(ii) Job's divine wisdom discourse (28:1-28)

(a) What man can reveal in the physical world (28:1-11)

(1) Metals (28:1-2)

(2) Mines in the middle of the earth can bring forth these formerly hidden items (28:3-6)

(3) Unlike animals man can find these things (28:7-8)

(4) Man's technology allows him to reveal these items (28:9-11)

(b) Man's inability to uncover wisdom (28:12-22)

(1) The inaccessibility of wisdom (28:12-13)

(2) The ocean does not contain wisdom (28:14)

(3) The inability to purchase wisdom (28:15-19)

(4) Wisdom is hidden (28:20-22)

(c) Wisdom comes from God (28:23-28)

(1) Wisdom is found in God (28:23)

(2) God governs the universe with wisdom (28:24-27)

(3) Wisdom defined: respect God and flee evil (28:28)

Job 28

(ii) Job's divine wisdom discourse (28:1-28)

(a) What man can reveal in the physical world (28:1-11)

(1) Metals (28:1-2)

1 "Certainly there is a mine for silver And a place for refining gold.

1 "Surely there is a mine for silver And a place where they refine gold.

1 "Surely there are mines for silver and places where gold is refined.

1 Surely there is a vein for the silver, and a place for gold where they fine it.

2 "Iron is taken from the dust, And copper is smelted from rock.

2 "Iron is taken from the dust, And copper is smelted from rock.

2 Iron is taken from the ground; and copper is smelted from ore.

2 Iron is taken out of the earth, and brass is molten out of the stone.

(2) Mines in the middle of the earth can bring forth these
formerly hidden items (28:3-6)

3 "*Man* puts an end to darkness, And to the farthest limit he searches out The rock in
gloom and deep shadow.

3 "*Man* puts an end to darkness, And to the farthest limit he searches out The rock in
gloom and deep shadow.

3 Mankind limits the darkness as they search the deepest depths for ore in unfathomable
darkness.

3 He setteth an end to darkness, and searcheth out all perfection: the stones of darkness,
and the shadow of death.

4 "He sinks a shaft away from inhabited areas, Forgotten by the foot; They hang *and*
swing, away from people.

4 "He sinks a shaft far from habitation, Forgotten by the foot; They hang and swing to and
fro far from men.

4 He sinks his shaft far from human habitations, in a place forgotten by explorers; they
hang on harnesses as they swing back and forth.

4 The flood breaketh out from the inhabitant; even the waters forgotten of the foot: they
are dried up, they are gone away from men.

5 "From the earth comes food, And underneath, it is turned over like fire.

5 "The earth, from it comes food, And underneath it is turned up as fire.

5 "While the ground produces food, underneath it is torn up and burning hot,

5 As for the earth, out of it cometh bread: and under it is turned up as it were fire.

6 "Its rocks are the source of sapphires, And its dust *contains* gold.

6 "Its rocks are the source of sapphires, And its dust *contains* gold.

6 where stones are sapphire and gold dust can be found,

6 The stones of it are the place of sapphires: and it hath dust of gold.

(3) Unlike animals man can find these things (28:7-8)

7 "No bird of prey knows the path, Nor has the falcon's eye caught sight of it.

7 "The path no bird of prey knows, Nor has the falcon's eye caught sight of it.

7 a place where birds of prey never fly, and the eyes of the falcon have never seen.

7 There is a path which no fowl knoweth, and which the vulture's eye hath not seen:

8 "The proud animals have not trodden it, Nor has the lion passed over it.

- 8 "The proud beasts have not trodden it, Nor has the *fierce* lion passed over it.
- 8 The proud beasts haven't walked there; lions have never passed over it.
- 8 The lion's whelps have not trodden it, nor the fierce lion passed by it.

(4) Man's technology allows him to reveal these items (28:9-11)

- 9 "He puts his hand on the flint; He overturns the mountains at the base.
- 9 "He puts his hand on the flint; He overturns the mountains at the base.
- 9 "Using a flint, he thrusts his hand, overturning mountains by the roots.
- 9 He putteth forth his hand upon the rock; he overturneth the mountains by the roots.

- 10 "He carves out channels through the rocks, And his eye sees anything precious.
- 10 "He hews out channels through the rocks, And his eye sees anything precious.
- 10 He cuts a channel through the rocks, while his eyes search for anything of value.
- 10 He cutteth out rivers among the rocks; and his eye seeth every precious thing.

- 11 "He dams up the streams from flowing, And brings to light what is hidden.
- 11 "He dams up the streams from flowing, And what is hidden he brings out to the light.
- 11 He dams up flowing rivers, bringing hidden things to light."
- 11 He bindeth the floods from overflowing; and the thing that is hid bringeth he forth to light.

(b) Man's inability to uncover wisdom (28:12-22)

(1) The inaccessibility of wisdom (28:12-13)

- 12 "But where can wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding?
- 12 "But where can wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding?
- 12 "Where can wisdom be found? Where is understanding's home?
- 12 But where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding?

- 13 "Mankind does not know its value, Nor is it found in the land of the living.
- 13 "Man does not know its value, Nor is it found in the land of the living.
- 13 Mankind doesn't appreciate their value; and you won't find it anywhere on earth.
- 13 Man knoweth not the price thereof; neither is it found in the land of the living.

(2) The ocean does not contain wisdom (28:14)

- 14 "The ocean depth says, 'It is not in me'; And the sea says, 'It is not with me.'
- 14 "The deep says, 'It is not in me'; And the sea says, 'It is not with me.'
- 14 The deepest ocean says, 'It's not within me.' and the sea says, 'You'll never find it with me.'

14 The depth saith, It is not in me: and the sea saith, It is not with me.

(3) The inability to purchase wisdom (28:15-19)

15 "Pure gold cannot be given in exchange for it, Nor can silver be weighed as its price.

15 "Pure gold cannot be given in exchange for it, Nor can silver be weighed as its price.

15 You can't buy it with gold, and its value cannot be calculated in silver.

15 It cannot be gotten for gold, neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof.

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

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

16 It cannot be compared to gold from Ophir, with precious onyx, or with sapphire.

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

17 "Gold or glass cannot equal it, Nor can it be exchanged for articles of pure gold.

17 "Gold or glass cannot equal it, Nor can it be exchanged for articles of fine gold.

17 It cannot be compared to gold and fine glass crystal, nor can it be exchanged for gold-plated weaponry.

17 The gold and the crystal cannot equal it: and the exchange of it shall not be for jewels of fine gold.

18 "Coral and crystal are not to be mentioned; And the acquisition of wisdom is more *valuable* than pearls.

18 "Coral and crystal are not to be mentioned; And the acquisition of wisdom is above *that* of pearls.

18 Don't even bother to mention coral and crystal— wisdom is more valuable than a bag of rubies.

18 No mention shall be made of coral, or of pearls: for the price of wisdom is above rubies.

19 "The topaz of Cush cannot equal it, Nor can it be valued in pure gold.

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

19 It can neither be compared with the topaz of Ethiopia nor valued in comparison to pure gold."

19 The topaz of Ethiopia shall not equal it, neither shall it be valued with pure gold.

(4) Wisdom is hidden (28:20-22)

20 "Where then does wisdom come from? And where is this place of understanding?

20 "Where then does wisdom come from? And where is the place of understanding?

20 "From where, then, does wisdom originate? Where does understanding live?

20 Whence then cometh wisdom? and where is the place of understanding?

21 "It is hidden from the eyes of every living *creature*, And concealed from the birds of the sky.

21 "Thus it is hidden from the eyes of all living And concealed from the birds of the sky.

21 It has been concealed from the sight of every living creature and hidden even from the birds in the skies.

21 Seeing it is hid from the eyes of all living, and kept close from the fowls of the air.

22 "Abaddon and Death say, 'With our ears we have heard a report of it.'

22 "Abaddon and Death say, 'With our ears we have heard a report of it.'

22 Abaddon and death said, 'We did hear a rumor about it.'

22 Destruction and death say, We have heard the fame thereof with our ears.

(c) Wisdom comes from God (28:23-28)

(1) Wisdom is found in God (28:23)

23 "God understands its way, And He knows its place.

23 "God understands its way, And He knows its place.

23 God understands how to get there; he knows where they live.

23 God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof.

(2) God governs the universe with wisdom (28:24-27)

24 "For He looks to the ends of the earth; He sees everything under the heavens.

24 "For He looks to the ends of the earth And sees everything under the heavens.

24 For he looks as far as the ends of the earth and sees everything under the sky.

24 For he looketh to the ends of the earth, and seeth under the whole heaven;

25 "When He imparted weight to the wind, And assessed the waters by measure,

25 "When He imparted weight to the wind And meted out the waters by measure,

25 "He imparted weight to the wind; he regulated water by his measurement.

25 To make the weight for the winds; and he weigheth the waters by measure.

26 When He made a limit for the rain, And a course for the thunderbolt,

26 When He set a limit for the rain And a course for the thunderbolt,

26 He set in place ordinances for the rain; and determined the pathway for thunder that accompanies lightning.

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 also searched it out.
27 Then He saw it and declared it; He established it and also searched it out.
27 Then he looked at wisdom, and fixed it in place; he established it, and also examined it.
27 Then did he see it, and declare it; he prepared it, yea, and searched it out.

(3) Wisdom defined: respect God and flee evil (28:28)

28 "And to mankind He said, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; And to turn away from evil is understanding.'"

28 "And to man He said, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; And to depart from evil is understanding.'"

28 He has commanded mankind: 'To fear the Lord—that is wisdom; to move away from evil—that is understanding.'"

28 And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.