

Where Is Wisdom

Chapter Twenty-Eight

Job 28:1-6

“Surely there is a mine for silver, and a place for gold that they refine. Iron is taken out of the earth, and copper is smelted from the ore. Man puts an end to darkness and searches out to the farthest limit the ore in gloom and deep darkness. 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.”

All Treasure Has A Source

- In Chapter 28, Job continues his defense by searching out the source of wisdom.
- Job's friends certainly did not supply any wisdom.
- Job considered that man **mines** and **searches out to the farthest limit** of the earth for silver, gold, iron, copper to bring **wealth** but it doesn't provide men with **wisdom**.
- "We are paying billions of dollars to bring back rocks from the moon. Those are mighty expensive rocks, friends. But they are not telling man what he would like to know." - McGee, J. Vernon

- “If you seek it [wisdom] like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, **then** you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.”- **Proverbs 2:4-5**
- How do men seek money? What will they not do to get rich? Reader, seek the salvation of thy soul as earnestly as the covetous man seeks wealth; and be ashamed of thyself, if thou be less in earnest after the **true riches** than he is after **perishing wealth**."- Clarke, Adam
- “Better is a little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble with it.”-**Proverbs 15:16**

Ancient Technology

- Job points out that mankind was well developed in their skills and technology for the purpose of mining.
- Man had the ability during Job's time to put an **end to darkness** to **open shafts** in the earth and to **hang in the air** while **they swing to and fro** in search of treasure and yet man's technological advancements did not bring them wisdom.
- The point is that man's intelligence and determination enable him to accomplish amazing feats of technological ingenuity, but left to himself he cannot find wisdom. "Wisdom is a treasure rarer than any other." -Smick, Elmer

Job 28:5-11

“As for the earth, out of it comes bread, but underneath it is turned up as by fire. Its stones are the place of sapphires, and it has dust of gold. That path no bird of prey knows, and the falcon’s eye has not seen it. The proud beasts have not trodden it; the lion has not passed over it. Man puts his hand to the flinty rock and overturns mountains by the roots. He cuts out channels in the rocks, and his eye sees every precious thing. He dams up the streams so that they do not trickle, and the thing that is hidden he brings out to light.”

Discovery Of The Earth's Treasure

- Job painted a picture of the earth being a storehouse of riches to be discovered by those who were willing to work and search persistently for those **hidden** riches to be brought to **light**.
- Man will go to great lengths to harvest the riches of the earth by **overturning mountains, cutting channels and damning streams**.
- Job was obviously well acquainted with various kinds of mining operations and may have owned them himself.
- The **falcon** is celebrated for its vision, the **lion** for its courage. But neither is as observant or as intrepid as man, and neither bird nor beast has access to the remote places that men have penetrated in their lust for treasures.”-Andersen, Francis

Job 28:12-19

“But where shall wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding? Man does not know its worth, and it is not found in the land of the living. The deep says, ‘It is not in me,’ and the sea says, ‘It is not with me.’ It cannot be bought for gold, and silver cannot be weighed as its price. It cannot be valued in the gold of Ophir, in precious onyx or sapphire. Gold and glass cannot equal it, nor can it be exchanged for jewels of fine gold. No mention shall be made of coral or of crystal; the price of wisdom is above pearls. The topaz of Ethiopia cannot equal it, nor can it be valued in pure gold.”

Wisdom Is The Treasure

- Job asked the question, “**where shall wisdom be found?**”
- He said that, **Man does not know its worth** and interestingly wisdom is **not found** in the **land of the living**.
- Man cannot gain true wisdom by hard work, or by buying it with pure gold, or by trading it for precious jewels, wisdom is not found in this world but can only be found through a revelation from God.
- “**For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;**”-**Proverbs 2:6**

- The most expressive way God gives wisdom is from the words from His mouth.
- Through His revealed Word, the Bible, He gives knowledge and understanding. True wisdom is found in Him and He gives it.
- Man can invent, construct, and order the affairs of man and beast but nothing he can do will gain him wisdom unless he submits to God and obeys His Word because wisdom does not lie hidden in the earth but in the person of God.
- “ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.”- James 1:5
- **Wisdom** is the application of God’s Word into our everyday lives.

<u>Godly Wisdom</u>	<u>Earthly Wisdom</u>
Looks at life situations from God's perspective	Looks at other people to compare themselves with how well things are going
Knows that God is good no matter what the circumstances may be	Has a sense of bitterness towards God
Seeks God during difficult circumstances	Stops seeking and becomes resentful
Values God's wisdom	Values Man's wisdom above God's wisdom
The goal is not the gifts God gives but a relationship built on His grace	The goal is to get from God such things as health, wealth, insight, power, and control
Recognizes that God has not left them	God must not be involved in the affairs of the world, especially my world
Difficult circumstances can build maturity in my relationship with God	Difficult circumstances have no value
Everybody goes through times of testing	I am the only one who seems to have these things happening to me

Job 28:20-28

“From where, then, does wisdom come? And where is the place of understanding? It is hidden from the eyes of all living and concealed from the birds of the air. Abaddon and Death say, ‘We have heard a rumor of it with our ears.’ God understands the way to it, and he knows its place. For he looks to the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens. When he gave to the wind its weight and apportioned the waters by measure, when he made a decree for the rain and a way for the lightning of the thunder, then he saw it and declared it; he established it, and searched it out. And he said to man, ‘Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding.’”

God Is The Source Of Wisdom

- “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!”-**Psalm 111:10**
- Job knew the answer of his question, **where shall wisdom be found?**
- He knew all along that the source of wisdom is found in God, Who, **understands the way to it, and he knows its place.**

- Job stated that to **turn away from evil is understanding**.
- Adam Clarke believed that when Job referred to God speaking **to man**, in verse 28, that he was referencing the dialogue that Adam had with God after the Fall.
- “This probably refers to the revelation of his will which God gave to Adam after his fall. He had before sought for wisdom in a forbidden way. When he and Eve saw that the tree was pleasant to the eyes, and a **tree to be desired to make one wise**, they took and did eat, Genesis 3:6. Thus they lost all the **wisdom** that they had, by not setting the **fear of the Lord** before their eyes, and became **foolish, wicked, and miserable**.

- Hear, then, what God prescribes as a proper remedy for this dire disease: The fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; it is thy only wisdom now to set God always before thy eyes, that thou mayest not again transgress.”-Clarke, Adam
- “The gaining of wisdom requires the total sacrifice of our single most precious possession: ourselves. More specifically, what is required is the surrender of our wills.”-Mason, Mike