

Studies in Job
Where Can Wisdom be Found?
Job 28

Review and Intro

The cycle of speeches is finally over.

Job is going to speak from 29-31. Elihu will speak from 32-37.

The passage is more than a hymn dedicated to wisdom; it deals with how we get wisdom, how we gain understanding, the source of and application of truth to life.

I. Men go to great lengths to mine the valuable (1-11)

- A. The mining industry (1-2)
- B. Man's efforts (3-4)
- C. The treasure is under the earth, hard to find (5-8)
- D. Man's achievements (9-11)

II. Wisdom cannot be bought; it is invaluable (12-19)

- A. The real question (12)
- B. Man doesn't value it; nor can he find it (13-14)
- C. Man cannot buy it; it is invaluable (15-19)

III. Wisdom is in God alone and He alone reveals it (20-28)

- A. The question asked again (20)
- B. It is hidden (21)
- C. Abaddon and death (22)
- D. God is omniscient and omnipotent (23-27)

- Wisdom is the application of knowledge to accomplish certain purposes or ends.
- Since God is omniscient, because He is good, He applies His knowledge in ways that achieve His glory and the good of His elect.
- God has all wisdom; therefore, God always chooses the best (according to His standard) of all possible choices.
- Divine wisdom is the application of God's infinite and perfect knowledge in a manner which accomplishes His morally perfect ends by the best possible means.

- Divine wisdom is also infallible because of God's power (He never lacks the power to act). Note how power and wisdom are often wed together.

E. God alone reveals wisdom (28)

1. He said to man

2. The fear of the Lord, that is wisdom
To turn away from evil is understanding
(cf Prov. 1:7; Ecc. 12:13-14)

“To fear the Lord means to tremble before Him because of the **holiness** of His character and His just judgment against all wickedness; and to trust Him unreservedly because of the bounty of His **goodness**, mercy and blessing toward those who turn to Him alone for their life and well-being -- expressing itself in 1) a resolved and fervent opposition to all unrighteousness and wickedness, and 2) a resolved and fervent obedience to God's law, in humble recognition of God's rightful authority over our lives, for His glory and our good.”
(Dr. Bruce Ware).

3. This means that Job does have wisdom and understanding.

Conclusion