

# Job 11:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The measure thereof is longer than the earth, and broader than the sea.

## Analysis

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The 'measure' (מִדָּה, middah) of divine understanding exceeds earth's length and sea's breadth—another merism expressing infinity. Zophar describes God's wisdom using spatial metaphors because human language cannot directly capture divine attributes. This echoes Psalm 139:7-12 and Ephesians 3:18-19 (knowing the love that surpasses knowledge). Ironically, while asserting God's immeasurable wisdom, Zophar presumes to know precisely why Job suffers. True understanding of God's incomprehensibility produces humility, not the arrogant certainty Zophar displays. Calvin wrote that knowledge of God should lead to self-knowledge, revealing our limitations.

## Historical Context

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Ancient measurements used physical landmarks—the earth's extent and sea's vastness were ultimate reference points for magnitude. Zophar's imagery would communicate absolute immensity to his original audience.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. If God's understanding is truly immeasurable, how should that shape our response to suffering we cannot explain?
2. How can affirming God's infinite wisdom coexist with honest acknowledgment of our confusion?

## Interlinear Text

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|                   |                |             |               |        |              |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|--------|--------------|
| אֲרָכָהּ הַ       | יִמָּא רֵץ     | מִדָּה הַ   | וּרְחֹבָהּ הַ | מִנִּי | יָם:         |
| thereof is longer | than the earth | The measure | and broader   | H4480  | than the sea |
| H752              | H776           | H4055       | H7342         |        | H3220        |

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