

Job 28:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He cutteth out rivers among the rocks; and his eye seeth every precious thing.

Analysis

He cutteth out rivers among the rocks—miners channel water through tunnels for ore processing and transport. The Hebrew *yeor* (יַרְדֵּי, "rivers") often refers to the Nile but here means artificial channels. **And his eye seeth every precious thing** uses *yaqar* (יָקָר, "precious"), meaning costly or valuable. The miner's trained eye discerns valuable ore from worthless rock—specialized knowledge enabling wealth extraction.

Job's irony deepens: humans engineer underground rivers and identify precious minerals through practiced discernment, yet this same careful observation cannot locate wisdom. The "eye" that sees gold and gems is blind to spiritual treasure. Jesus warned: "if therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!" (Matthew 6:23). Spiritual perception requires regeneration, not education. The Reformed doctrine of illumination teaches that the Holy Spirit must open spiritually blind eyes (2 Corinthians 4:4-6). Job's poem anticipates this: verse 28 reveals wisdom comes through divine revelation ("the fear of the LORD"), not human perception.

Historical Context

Ancient mining operations required hydraulic engineering—water channels for washing ore, cooling tunnels, and transport. Miners developed expertise in identifying valuable minerals amid worthless stone, a skill requiring years of training. Job's description shows intimate knowledge of mining technology, likely

reflecting personal observation in patriarchal Arabia where mining flourished. The passage emphasizes human achievement to highlight by contrast wisdom's inaccessibility through natural means.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does spiritual blindness persist even in those with sharp perception in earthly matters (business, academics, technology)?
2. What does it mean that 'seeing every precious thing' in this world doesn't enable seeing the most precious thing (wisdom)?
3. How should Christians pray for illumination (opened eyes to spiritual truth) rather than mere information?

Interlinear Text

בִּצְּרוֹת	יְאֹרִים	בִּקַּעַע	וְכָל	! כָּל ר	רְאֵתָהּ
among the rocks	rivers	He cutteth out	H3605	every precious thing	seeth
H6697	H2975	H1234		H3366	H7200
וְעֵינוֹ:					
and his eye					
H5869					