

Job 28:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He bindeth the floods from overflowing; and the thing that is hid bringeth he forth to light.

Analysis

He bindeth the floods from overflowing—miners dam underground water sources to prevent flooding. The Hebrew chabash (שָׁבַשׁ, "bindeth") means to bind up or restrain, while bekhi (בְּקִהִי, "floods") refers to weeping or trickling water. **And the thing that is hid bringeth he forth to light** uses ta'alumah (תַּעֲלָמָה, "that which is hid"), meaning hidden or concealed things, and or (אוֹר, "light"), meaning light or illumination. Miners bring hidden treasures from darkness to light through technological mastery.

This verse presents the supreme irony: humans extract hidden things from the earth, bringing them to light, yet cannot bring wisdom to light (verse 21: "seeing it is hid from the eyes of all living"). The parallelism is exact—what miners do physically (reveal hidden treasures), they cannot do spiritually. Only God brings wisdom from concealment to revelation. This anticipates New Testament theology: "God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God" (2 Corinthians 4:6). Divine illumination, not human excavation, reveals truth.

Historical Context

Underground water was mining's greatest challenge. Ancient miners developed dams, channels, and drainage systems to control flooding—engineering marvels demonstrating human ingenuity. The phrase "bring to light" had technical meaning: extracting ore from dark mines into daylight for processing. Job's

audience would recognize this as humanity's peak achievement, making the poem's conclusion (wisdom comes through fearing God, not human effort) more striking.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does human ability to 'bring hidden things to light' in science and technology create false confidence that we can illuminate spiritual truth independently?
2. What does it mean that only God can bring wisdom 'to light' through revelation rather than discovery?
3. How should recognizing our dependence on divine illumination affect how we approach Bible study and spiritual growth?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵת מִבְכֵי נִבְרָת חַבֵּשׁ הַנִּשְׁלָמָה בְּרִיאָת

from overflowing the floods He bindeth and the thing that is hid bringeth he forth

H1065 H5104 H2280 H8587 H3318

אֶלָּא:
to light
H216

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 4:5 (Light): Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

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