

Job 28:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whence then cometh wisdom? and where is the place of understanding?

Analysis

Job repeats: 'Whence then cometh wisdom? and where is the place of understanding, seeing it is hid from the eyes of all living?' The repetition (from v. 12) emphasizes wisdom's hiddenness from all creatures. No earthly investigation can discover ultimate understanding.

Historical Context

Ancient wisdom literature sought knowledge through observation and tradition, but Job recognizes limits. True wisdom requires divine revelation.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What limits do you encounter in seeking wisdom through human means?
2. How does recognizing wisdom's hiddenness prepare you to receive revelation?

Interlinear Text

וְהִסְתַּמְתָּ	מֵאֵין	תָּבֹא	וְאֵי	הֵ	וְ	מֵקוֹם
wisdom	Whence	then cometh	H335	H2088		and where is the place
H2451	H370	H935				H4725
בִּינָה:						
of understanding						
H998						

Additional Cross-References

Job 28:12 (Parallel theme): But where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding?

James 1:5 (Parallel theme): If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

Job 28:23 (Parallel theme): God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof.

Job 28:28 (Parallel theme): And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.

James 1:17 (Parallel theme): Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Proverbs 2:6 (Parallel theme): For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.