

# Job 28:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof.

## Analysis

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After describing wisdom's hiddenness, Job declares: "God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof." The verb *bin* (בִּין, "understandeth") means to discern or perceive deeply. The verb *yada* (יָדָע, "knoweth") denotes intimate, experiential knowledge. Job affirms divine epistemological privilege—God alone possesses comprehensive understanding of wisdom's nature and location. This resonates with Isaiah 55:8-9: "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD." From a Reformed perspective, this grounds the doctrine of divine incomprehensibility—God's knowledge infinitely transcends human understanding. Yet Scripture reveals that God shares wisdom with those who fear Him (verse 28). The New Testament identifies Christ as the one "in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:3). What Job longed for—access to divine wisdom—has been granted through the incarnation.

## Historical Context

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Ancient wisdom literature (Proverbs, Sirach, Wisdom of Solomon) portrayed wisdom as hidden or personified as existing before creation. Egyptian Ma'at (wisdom/order) was a divine attribute. Job's affirmation that God alone understands wisdom's way parallels Proverbs 8:22-31, where wisdom describes being with God from the beginning. This theological development prepared Israel to receive Christ as God's wisdom incarnate.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does acknowledging God's unique understanding of wisdom cultivate intellectual humility?
2. What is the relationship between divine incomprehensibility and God's self-revelation in Scripture?
3. How does Christ as the wisdom of God answer Job's quest for understanding?

## Interlinear Text

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אֵל לֵהִים	יֵהֵב יוֹן	וַיִּדְרֹכָהּ	וְהוּא	וְיָדָע	אֵת
<b>God</b>	<b>understandeth</b>	<b>the way</b>	<b>!</b>	<b>thereof and he knoweth</b>	
H430	H995	H1870	H1931	H3045	H853

  

מְקוֹמָהּ:
<b>the place</b>
H4725

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Corinthians 1:30** (References God): But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

**Romans 11:33** (References God): O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

**Jude 1:25** (References God): To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

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

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