

Job 28:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There is a path which no fowl knoweth, and which the vulture's eye hath not seen:

Analysis

There is a path which no fowl knoweth, and which the vulture's eye hath not seen—Job describes the secret underground mining passages hidden from even the keenest-eyed birds. The Hebrew *ayit* (עַיִט) refers to birds of prey, particularly vultures known for extraordinary vision. The verb *yada* (יָדָה, "knoweth") means intimate knowledge through experience, while *ra'ah* (רָאָה, "seen") emphasizes visual perception. Even creatures with superior natural endowments cannot discover the miner's hidden path.

This deepens the wisdom analogy: if subterranean paths elude even supernaturally gifted creation, how much more does wisdom elude human discovery? The verse anticipates verse 21: wisdom is "hid from the eyes of all living." Reformed theology recognizes that while general revelation displays God's existence (Romans 1:20), saving knowledge requires special revelation. Proverbs 2:6 affirms this: "the LORD giveth wisdom." No natural capacity—human ingenuity or animal instinct—can locate wisdom; God must disclose it.

Historical Context

Ancient peoples attributed near-supernatural vision to vultures and eagles. Job's assertion that even these keen-eyed creatures cannot perceive mining tunnels emphasizes how thoroughly hidden these operations were. This would impress his audience: if apex predators with superior sight miss these paths, human discovery

of wisdom apart from God is utterly impossible. The passage combats ancient Near Eastern confidence in human wisdom and divination.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does this verse challenge the Enlightenment confidence that human reason, given enough time and effort, can discover all truth?
2. What does it mean practically that 'the fear of the LORD' (verse 28) provides better vision than the vulture's eye?
3. How should recognizing our spiritual blindness apart from divine revelation shape our approach to Scripture and prayer?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵת	תְּבִיבָה	לֹא	עַזְּזָבָה	יְדָעָה	עַזְּזָבָה	לֹא	אֵת	לֹא	תְּבִיבָה	לֹא	עַזְּזָבָה	יְדָעָה	עַזְּזָבָה	
There is a path	H3808	knoweth	H3045	which no fowl	H5861	hath not seen	H3808	eye	H7805		H5869			

אֵת:

and which the vulture's

H344

Additional Cross-References

Job 11:6 (Parallel theme): And that he would shew thee the secrets of wisdom, that they are double to that which is! Know therefore that God exacteth of thee less than thine iniquity deserveth.

