

Job 9:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Which doeth great things past finding out; yea, and wonders without number.

Analysis

Job continues describing divine works: 'Which doeth great things past finding out; yea, and wonders without number.' The phrase 'past finding out' (ad-ein cheqer, עַד-אֵין חֶקֶר) means beyond investigation or search—God's works exceed human comprehension. 'Wonders' (pele, אֲלֵנָה) denotes marvelous, extraordinary acts. The phrase 'without number' (ad-ein mispar, עַד-אֵין מִסְפָּר) emphasizes infinite abundance—we cannot count God's wonderful works.

Job quotes or echoes Eliphaz's earlier words (5:9), showing he listened to his friend's theology. However, Job applies the same truth differently: Eliphaz used God's inscrutable ways to argue Job should submit and repent; Job uses them to show the impossibility of understanding or contending with God. Same theology, different application—illustrating how doctrine's pastoral application matters as much as its accuracy.

Paul echoes this in Romans 11:33: '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!' But Paul's context celebrates grace's mystery, while Job wrestles with providence's inscrutability. Both are valid responses to divine transcendence—worship and questioning belong together in genuine faith.

Historical Context

Ancient wisdom traditions emphasized the limits of human knowledge before divine mysteries. Job's acknowledgment of God's incomprehensibility reflects this wisdom while adding existential urgency—the God whose ways cannot be fathomed is the same God who afflicts Job without apparent cause.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 – Characteristics of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do we balance intellectual humility (God's ways are past finding out) with confident trust (God's ways are good)?
2. What does Job's wrestling with divine inscrutability teach about the legitimacy of asking 'why' even when answers don't come?
3. In what ways does Christ's revelation make God's ways less inscrutable while maintaining proper divine transcendence?

Interlinear Text

הַעֲשֵׂה	כָּלֹת	גַּדְלָה	עַד	אֵין	עַד	אֵין	עַד	אֵין	עַד	אֵין	עַד	אֵין
Which doeth	great things	H5704	past	finding out	yea and wonders	H5704	past					
H6213	H1419		H369	H2714	H6381							H369

מִסְפָּר:

Additional Cross-References

Job 5:9 (Parallel theme): Which doeth great things and unsearchable; marvellous things without number:

Psalms 72:18 (Parallel theme): Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things.

Romans 11:33 (Parallel theme): 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!

Ephesians 3:20 (Parallel theme): Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (Parallel theme): He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.

Psalms 71:15 (Parallel theme): My mouth shall shew forth thy righteousness and thy salvation all the day; for I know not the numbers thereof.

Psalms 136:4 (Parallel theme): To him who alone doeth great wonders: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Exodus 15:11 (Parallel theme): Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?

Job 37:23 (Parallel theme): Touching the Almighty, we cannot find him out: he is excellent in power, and in judgment, and in plenty of justice: he will not afflict.