

Job 28 – Job’s discourse on wisdom

A responsive reading for Creation Sabbath from the ASV Bible

- Reader 1** ¹ Surely there is a mine for silver,
And a place for gold which they refine.
- Reader 2** ² Iron is taken out of the ^[b]earth,
And copper is molten out of the stone.
- Men** ³ *Man* setteth an end to darkness,
And searcheth out, to the furthest bound,
The stones of obscurity and of thick darkness.
⁴ He breaketh open a shaft away from where men
sojourn;
They are forgotten of the foot;
- Reader 1** They hang afar from men, they swing to and fro.
- Ladies** ⁵ As for the earth, out of it cometh bread;
And underneath it is turned up as it were by fire.
⁶ The stones thereof are the place of sapphires,
And it hath dust of gold.
- Reader 2** ⁷ That path no bird of prey knoweth,
Neither hath the falcon’s eye seen it:
- Reader 1** ⁸ The proud beasts have not trodden it,
Nor hath the fierce lion passed thereby.
- Men** ⁹ He putteth forth his hand upon the flinty rock;
He overturneth the mountains by the roots.
¹⁰ He cutteth out ^[g]channels among the rocks;
And his eye seeth every precious thing.
¹¹ He bindeth the streams ^[h]that they trickle not;
And the thing that is hid bringeth he forth to light.
- Ladies** ¹² But where shall wisdom be found?
And where is the place of understanding?
¹³ Man knoweth not the price thereof;
Neither is it found in the land of the living.
- Men** ¹⁴ The deep saith, It is not in me;
And the sea saith, It is not with me.

Ladies ¹⁵ It cannot be gotten for gold,
Neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof.

Reader 1 ¹⁶ It cannot be valued with the gold of Ophir,
With the precious onyx, or the sapphire.

Reader 2 ¹⁷ Gold and glass cannot equal it,
Neither shall it be exchanged for ^[k]jewels of fine gold.

All ¹⁸ No mention shall be made of coral or of crystal:
Yea, the price of wisdom is above ^[l]rubies.
¹⁹ The topaz of Ethiopia shall not equal it,
Neither shall it be valued with pure gold.

Reader 2 ²⁰ Whence then cometh wisdom?
And where is the place of understanding?

Reader 1 ²¹ Seeing it is hid from the eyes of all living,
And kept close from the birds of the heavens.

Men ²² Destruction and Death say,
We have heard a rumor thereof with our ears.

All ²³ God understandeth the way thereof,
And he knoweth the place thereof.
²⁴ For he looketh to the ends of the earth,
And seeth under the whole heaven;

Ladies ²⁵ To make a weight for the wind:
Yea, he meteth out the waters by measure.

Men ²⁶ When he made a decree for the rain,
And a way for the lightning of the thunder;
²⁷ Then did he see it, and declare it;

Ladies He established it, yea, and searched it out.

All ²⁸ And unto man he said,
Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom;
And to depart from evil is understanding.

*This reading was originally developed by Gina and Clinton Wahlen using the Christian Standard Bible.