

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 ^[c]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 ^[I]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.