

## Study Questions on Job

1. How is Job 28 structured?
2. Job 28:7f Job says “*That path no bird of prey knows.*” What is he referring to?  
The miner’s path to precious stones and metals deep beneath the surface of the ground.
3. Job 28. Job speaks of a second path, implicitly comparing it with the first. What are the two paths and how do they differ?  
First is path to precious stones and metals under the earth and that path can be discovered by man’s ingenuity. Second is path to wisdom, of much greater value than gems and gold, but path to it is completely unknown. Only God knows where it is found.
4. Job 28 describes wisdom that cannot be found and wisdom that can. What are the two types?  
First is the comprehensive knowledge of the world and God’s ways proper only to God. Second is summed up in v. 28, wisdom for man is fear of God and avoidance of evil, ie living life in obedience to God.
5. What are the three types of biblical wisdom?
6. Can you think of any truly captivating, convincing portrayals of goodness in literature or art.
7. How does Job 28:23-28 sketch the “answer” God gives Job in Job 38-42? Compare with Deut 29:29.
8. To think about: what sort of wisdom do we pursue? How does the evidence of our lives answer that question?

## Notes

### SUMMARY OF JOB 28

**Vv. 1-11** describe lengths man will go to in search for precious metals and gem stones. Mining deep underground, cutting shafts, using ropes to lower himself into the depths of the earth. Work is arduous and dangerous but man willing to risk life to obtain such treasures. These verses set the scene for the search for wisdom and the rhetorical question in v. 12, where can wisdom be found? Not in depths of the earth (v. 13), nor in depths of the sea (parallel of deep mines – utterly remote). Question shifts a little from where can (actually can’t) be found to its value, beyond that of precious metals and gems.

**V. 20** returns to question where wisdom can be found. Even destruction (Abaddon) and death (Mot) personified say they’ve heard of it but that’s all (v. 22).

**V. 23.** God alone knows where it can be found. He is Creator, Lord of the universe; such wisdom is proper to him alone. Wisdom for man (v. 28) is something else — to fear God and shun evil. This a rebuke to man’s u{bri” (arrogance, pride).

### Sermon Headings

- What is wisdom & how do we get it?
- What is wisdom in the bible?
  - Solomon’s wisdom — 1 Kgs 4:32
  - Craftsman, artist — 1 Kgs 7:13f
  - Love of God — Prov 1:7, Job 28:28
- What is love/fear of God?
- Les fleurs du mal — the flowers (ie attraction) of evil
- Deut 29:29. What belongs to us?