



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

November 13, 2022

“The Book of Job Part IV: Chapter 28, A Wisdom Poem

The whole of Job chapter 28 is called “The Wisdom Poem,” which has three stanzas. This poem is a guide to understanding the nature of divine wisdom. It is worth reading start to finish! (It’s only 28 verses.)

- The first stanza, verses 1-12, compares the search for wisdom to the search for precious metals and concludes that wisdom cannot be found by searching the same way as for silver and gold.

Surely there is a mine for silver and a place for gold to be refined. Iron is taken out of the earth, and copper is smelted from ore...but where shall wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding? [28:1, 12]

- The second stanza, verses 13-20, declares that despite all their hard work, human beings do not know how to obtain this priceless treasure of wisdom on their own.

Mortals do not know the way to it [wisdom], and it is not found in the land of the living... [28:13]

- The final stanza, verses 20-28, reveals the answer: God, who is the source of all wisdom, alone knows that wisdom is found both in the order of nature and in human affairs...and it is the Lord who ultimately guides us to wisdom.

God understands the way to it, and he knows its place...And he said to humankind, ‘Truly, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.’ [28:23,28]

- After reading the third stanza, look at how the Book of Job begins, chapter 1, verse 1:

“There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.”

Do the lines from Chapter 28 remind us of anyone? Of course: Job!

Prayer for Wisdom When Dealing with Confusion:

Lord, you are all-wise, the source of all true wisdom. With your supreme wisdom, you have graciously given me a life and a path to follow. Help me make the right decisions and allow me to experience your power and love in my life that I may, with a sound mind, push away the fears that confusion brings. Amen.

Let us keep in our prayers: comfort and recovery for Elizabeth, Keith, Mary, and Sally; for those affected by severe weather; for the hungry and homeless; pray for ourselves as we continue to seek and live by Divine Wisdom. Lord, hear our prayer!