Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	xi
Sigla and Abbreviations	xiii
Chapter One: Job 28 as Poetry	1
1.1 Job 28 as Problematic Masterpiece	1
1.2 Philology and Literature in the Study of Biblical Poetry	3
1.3 Job 28 in Current Research: A Selected Survey	5
1.3.1 Commentaries	5
1.3.2 Essays and Monographs on Job 28	8
1.3.3 Job 28 in Monographs on the Book of Job	
1.3.4 Studies on the Poetry of Job 28	
1.4 The Aims of this Study	17
1.5 A Note on Poetic Terminology	20
Chapter Two: Translation and Vocalized Text	22
2.1 Introduction	
2.2 Translation	23
2.3 Vocalized Text	25
Chapter Three: A Reading of Job 28	27
3.1 Introduction	
3.2 Planes of Meaning in Job 28: Realistic and Symbolic	30
3.3 Job 28 and the Deeds of Ancient Mesopotamian Kings	
3.3.1 Akkadian Royal Inscriptions	32
3.3.2 The Standard Babylonian Gilgamesh Epic	35
3.4 The Movement and Structure of the Poem	
3.5 Reading Section One (vv. 1-11)	39
3.6 Re-reading Section One (vv. 1-11)	62
3.7 Section Two (vv. 12-14, 20-22)	87
3.8 Section Three (vv. 23-28)	
Chapter Four: A Philological and Textual Study of Job 28	105
4.1 Introduction	105
4.2 Texts and Versions Consulted in This Study	106
4.2.1 Witnesses to the Masoretic Text	
4.2.2 Witnesses to the Greek Text	108



	4.2.3 The Peshitta	112
	4.2.4 The Vulgate	113
	4.2.5 The Rabbinic Targum	113
	4.2.6 Job at Qumran	
4.3	Commentary on Job 28:1-14, 20-28	117
	1a. Indeed	
	1a. source	123
	1b. a place for gold which is refined	124
	2b. hard	
	3a-4b. Setting a bound {they wander}	128
	3aβ. he	
	3aβ. <i>probes</i>	
	3b. stone of deepest gloom	
	4aα. He breaches course <s> far from dwellers</s>	134
	4aβ. ones forgotten by passers-by	139
	4b. They are bereft of humanity	140
	5a-9a	
	5a. A land from which food springs forth	143
	5b. beneath transformed as fire	
	6a. A place of lapis is its stones	146
	6b. which has dust of gold	147
	7a. path	148
	7a. bird of prey	
	7b. gazed	149
	7b. falcon	150
	8a. thrashed	150
	8a. serpents	151
	8b. moved over	154
	8b. lion	154
	9a. hard rock	159
	9a. He assaults	161
	9b. overturns summits at the roots	162
	10a. He splits streams in the mountains	163
	10b. His eye sees every precious thing	166
	11a. the sources of the rivers	167
	11a. He binds up	169
	11b. brings the dark thing to light	170
	12a. wisdom	173
	12a. where is it found	175
	12b. understanding	176
	13a. its abode	
	13b. nor is it found in the land of the living	178

	14a-19b	
	14a. Deep says, "It is not in me"	179
	14b. Sea says, "It is not with me"	181
	20a. But wisdom—from where does it come?	182
	20b. Where is the place of understanding?	182
	21a. It is darkened from the eyes of all beasts	
	21b-22a	184
	22a. Destruction and Death say	
	22a. "Our ears have heard its rumor"	185
	23a. God perceives its path	
	23b. He knows its place	186
	24a-27b. Because probed it	187
	24a. Because he gazes at the edges of the earth	187
	24b. sees beneath all the heavens	
	25a. When he made a weight for the wind	190
	25b. apportioned the waters by measure	
	26a. when he made a groove for the rain	
	26b-27a	195
	26b. and a track for the thundershower	195
	27a-b. then he saw it probed it	199
	28a-b. and he said understanding	
	28aα. and he said to the human	
	28aα-b. "Behold, awe of the Lord to turn from evil"	207
	r Five: The "Structured Commentary" in Job 28:15-19	
	Translation	
	Vocalized Text	
	Discussion	
5.4	Commentary on Job 28:15-19	
	15a. Fine gold cannot be given in its place	
	15b. Silver cannot be weighed for its purchase price	
	16a. It cannot be paid for with the gold of Ophir	
	16b. with precious carnelian or lapis-lazuli	
	17a. Neither gold nor glass can be estimated against it	
	17b. Ornaments of pure gold are not its exchange	
	18a. Neither pearls nor rock crystal should be mentioned	
	18b. A sack of wisdom is more precious than corals	227
	19a. Topaz stones of Cush cannot be estimated against it	229
	19b. It cannot be paid for with pure gold	231
Chapto	r Six: Conclusions	222
	Poetic Language in Job 28	
0.1	I October Litting Cart John 40	202

6.2 The Conceptual Background(s) of the Poem	233
6.3 The Subject of Verses 3-11	234
6.4 The Integrity and Structure of the Poem	234
6.5 Wisdom in Job 28	
6.6 The Genre of Job 28	236
6.7 The Place and Function of Job 28 in the Book of Job	241
Selected Bibliography	245
Index of Ancient Texts	273
Biblical Texts	273
Non-Biblical Texts	283
Index of Authors	289