

Bildad's First Speech (c. 2200 BC)

Job 8

Bildad Agrees With Eliphaz's Worldview

- 1 Then answered Bildad the Shuhite, and said,
- 2 How long wilt thou speak these *things*? and *how long shall* the words of thy mouth *be like* a strong wind?
- 3 Doth God pervert judgment? or doth the Almighty pervert justice?
- 4 If thy children have sinned against him, and he have cast them away for their transgression;

Bildad Encourages Job to Repent

- 5 If thou wouldest seek unto God betimes, and make thy supplication to the Almighty;
- 6 If thou *wert* pure and upright; surely now he would awake for thee, and make the habitation of thy righteousness prosperous.
- 7 Though thy beginning was small, yet thy latter end should greatly increase.

Bildad's Sermon—God's Judgment is Upon the Unrighteous

- 8 For enquire, I pray thee, of the former age, and prepare thyself to the search of their fathers:
- 9 (For we *are but of yesterday*, and know nothing, because our days upon earth *are a shadow*.)
- 10 Shall not they teach thee, *and* tell thee, and utter words out of their heart?
- 11 Can the rush grow up without mire? can the flag grow without water?
- 12 Whilst it *is* yet in his greenness, *and* not cut down, it withereth before any *other* herb.
- 13 So *are* the paths of all that forget God; and the hypocrite's hope shall perish:
- 14 Whose hope shall be cut off, and whose trust *shall be* a spider's web.
- 15 He shall lean upon his house, but it shall not stand: he shall hold it fast, but it shall not endure.
- 16 He *is* green before the sun, and his branch shooteth forth in his garden.
- 17 His roots are wrapped about the heap, *and* seeth the place of stones.
- 18 If he destroy him from his place, then *it* shall deny him, *saying*, I have not seen thee.
- 19 Behold, this *is* the joy of his way, and out of the earth shall others grow.

Bildad's Sermon—God's Blessing is Upon the Righteous

- 20 Behold, God will not cast away a perfect *man*, neither will he help the evil doers:
- 21 Till he fill thy mouth with laughing, and thy lips with rejoicing.
- 22 They that hate thee shall be clothed with shame; and the dwelling place of the wicked shall come to nought.

Job's Response to Bildad (c. 2200 BC)

Job 9–10

Job Imagines Himself Being Vindicated in Court—But Who Can Defend Themselves Against God?

- 9:1 Then Job answered and said,
- 2 I know *it is* so of a truth: but how should man be just with God?
- 3 If he will contend with him, he cannot answer him one of a thousand.
- 4 *He is* wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened *himself* against him, and hath prospered?
- 5 Which removeth the mountains, and they know not: which overturneth them in his anger.
- 6 Which shaketh the earth out of her place, and the pillars thereof tremble.
- 7 Which commandeth the sun, and it riseth not; and sealeth up the stars.
- 8 Which alone spreadeth out the heavens, and treadeth upon the waves of the sea.
- 9 Which maketh Arcturus, Orion, and Pleiades, and the chambers of the south.
- 10 Which doeth great things past finding out; yea, and wonders without number.
- 11 Lo, he goeth by me, and I see *him* not: he passeth on also, but I perceive him not.
- 12 Behold, he taketh away, who can hinder him? who will say unto him, What doest thou?
- 13 *If* God will not withdraw his anger, the proud helpers do stoop under him.
- 14 How much less shall I answer him, *and* choose out my words *to reason* with him?
- 15 Whom, though I were righteous, *yet* would I not answer, *but* I would make supplication to my judge.
- 16 If I had called, and he had answered me; *yet* would I not believe that he had hearkened unto my voice.
- 17 For he breaketh me with a tempest, and multiplieth my wounds without cause.
- 18 He will not suffer me to take my breath, but filleth me with bitterness.
- 19 *If I speak* of strength, lo, *he is* strong: and if of judgment, who shall set me a time *to plead*?
- 20 If I justify myself, mine own mouth shall condemn me: *if I say*, I *am* perfect, it shall also prove me perverse.

Job Declares Himself Innocent and Argues That the Blameless Suffer With the Guilty

- 21 *Though I were perfect, yet would I not know my soul: I would despise my life.*
 22 *This is one thing, therefore I said it, He destroyeth the perfect and the wicked.*
 23 *If the scourge slay suddenly, he will laugh at the trial of the innocent.*
 24 *The earth is given into the hand of the wicked: he covereth the faces of the judges thereof; if not, where, and who is he?*

Job Reflects On His Miserable Plight—No Matter What He Does, He Cannot Win

- 25 *Now my days are swifter than a post: they flee away, they see no good.*
 26 *They are passed away as the swift ships: as the eagle that hasteth to the prey.*
 27 *If I say, I will forget my complaint, I will leave off my heaviness, and comfort myself:*
 28 *I am afraid of all my sorrows, I know that thou wilt not hold me innocent.*
 29 *If I be wicked, why then labour I in vain?*
 30 *If I wash myself with snow water, and make my hands never so clean;*
 31 *Yet shalt thou plunge me in the ditch, and mine own clothes shall abhor me.*

If Only There Were Someone To Arbitrate Between Us!

- 32 *For he is not a man, as I am, that I should answer him, and we should come together in judgment.*
 33 *Neither is there any daysman betwixt us, that might lay his hand upon us both.*
 34 *Let him take his rod away from me, and let not his fear terrify me:*
 35 *Then would I speak, and not fear him; but it is not so with me.*

Job Cries Out to God—Why Are You Doing this? What is My Fault?

- 10:1 *My soul is weary of my life; I will leave my complaint upon myself; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul.*
 2 *I will say unto God, Do not condemn me; shew me wherefore thou contendest with me.*
 3 *Is it good unto thee that thou shouldst oppress, that thou shouldst despise the work of thine hands, and shine upon the counsel of the wicked?*
 4 *Hast thou eyes of flesh? or seest thou as man seeth?*
 5 *Are thy days as the days of man? are thy years as man's days,*
 6 *That thou enquirest after mine iniquity, and searchest after my sin?*
 7 *Thou knowest that I am not wicked; and there is none that can deliver out of thine hand.*

Job Cries Out to God—Have You Created Me Only to Destroy Me?

- 8 *Thine hands have made me and fashioned me together round about; yet thou dost destroy me.*
 9 *Remember, I beseech thee, that thou hast made me as the clay; and wilt thou bring me into dust again?*
 10 *Hast thou not poured me out as milk, and curdled me like cheese?*
 11 *Thou hast clothed me with skin and flesh, and hast fenced me with bones and sinews.*
 12 *Thou hast granted me life and favour, and thy visitation hath preserved my spirit.*
 13 *And these things hast thou hid in thine heart: I know that this is with thee.*
 14 *If I sin, then thou markest me, and thou wilt not acquit me from mine iniquity.*
 15 *If I be wicked, woe unto me; and if I be righteous, yet will I not lift up my head. I am full of confusion; therefore see thou mine affliction;*
 16 *For it increaseth. Thou huntest me as a fierce lion: and again thou shewest thyself marvelous upon me.*
 17 *Thou renewest thy witnesses against me, and increasest thine indignation upon me; changes and war are against me.*

Job Cries Out to God—Will You Give Me No Relief Before the End?

- 18 *Wherefore then hast thou brought me forth out of the womb? Oh that I had given up the ghost, and no eye had seen me!*
 19 *I should have been as though I had not been; I should have been carried from the womb to the grave.*
 20 *Are not my days few? cease then, and let me alone, that I may take comfort a little,*
 21 *Before I go whence I shall not return, even to the land of darkness and the shadow of death;*
 22 *A land of darkness, as darkness itself; and of the shadow of death, without any order, and where the light is as darkness.*

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