

Bildad's Second Speech (c. 2200 BC)

Job 18

Bildad Criticizes Job Harshly

- 1 Then answered Bildad the Shuhite, and said,
- 2 How long *will it be ere* ye make an end of words? mark, and afterwards we will speak.
- 3 Wherefore are we counted as beasts, *and* reputed vile in your sight?
- 4 He teareth himself in his anger: shall the earth be forsaken for thee? and shall the rock be removed out of his place?

Bildad's Claim—The Wicked are Dogged by Calamity

- 5 Yea, the light of the wicked shall be put out, and the spark of his fire shall not shine.
- 6 The light shall be dark in his tabernacle, and his candle shall be put out with him.
- 7 The steps of his strength shall be straitened, and his own counsel shall cast him down.
- 8 For he is cast into a net by his own feet, and he walketh upon a snare.
- 9 The gin shall take *him* by the heel, *and* the robber shall prevail against him.
- 10 The snare *is* laid for him in the ground, and a trap for him in the way.
- 11 Terrors shall make him afraid on every side, and shall drive him to his feet.
- 12 His strength shall be hunger-bitten, and destruction *shall be* ready at his side.
- 13 It shall devour the strength of his skin: *even* the firstborn of death shall devour his strength.
- 14 His confidence shall be rooted out of his tabernacle, and it shall bring him to the king of terrors.
- 15 It shall dwell in his tabernacle, because *it is* none of his: brimstone shall be scattered upon his habitation.
- 16 His roots shall be dried up beneath, and above shall his branch be cut off.
- 17 His remembrance shall perish from the earth, and he shall have no name in the street.
- 18 He shall be driven from light into darkness, and chased out of the world.
- 19 He shall neither have son nor nephew among his people, nor any remaining in his dwellings.
- 20 They that come after *him* shall be astonished at his day, as they that went before were affrighted.
- 21 Surely such *are* the dwellings of the wicked, and this *is* the place *of him* that knoweth not God.

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

Job 19

Job Bitterly Accuses His Friends of Tormenting Him

- 1 Then Job answered and said,
- 2 How long will ye vex my soul, and break me in pieces with words?
- 3 These ten times have ye reproached me: ye are not ashamed *that* ye make yourselves strange to me.
- 4 And be it indeed *that* I have erred, mine error remaineth with myself.
- 5 If indeed ye will magnify *yourselves* against me, and plead against me my reproach:
- 6 Know now that God hath overthrown me, and hath compassed me with his net.

Job Complains that Nobody Helps Him

- 7 Behold, I cry out of wrong, but I am not heard: I cry aloud, but *there is* no judgment.
- 8 He hath fenced up my way that I cannot pass, and he hath set darkness in my paths.
- 9 He hath stripped me of my glory, and taken the crown *from* my head.
- 10 He hath destroyed me on every side, and I am gone: and mine hope hath he removed like a tree.
- 11 He hath also kindled his wrath against me, and he counteth me unto him as *one of* his enemies.
- 12 His troops come together, and raise up their way against me, and encamp round about my tabernacle.

Job Feels Isolated and Alone

- 13 He hath put my brethren far from me, and mine acquaintance are verily estranged from me.
- 14 My kinsfolk have failed, and my familiar friends have forgotten me.
- 15 They that dwell in mine house, and my maids, count me for a stranger: I am an alien in their sight.
- 16 I called my servant, and he gave *me* no answer; I entreated him with my mouth.
- 17 My breath is strange to my wife, though I entreated for the children's *sake* of mine own body.
- 18 Yea, young children despised me; I arose, and they spake against me.
- 19 All my inward friends abhorred me: and they whom I loved are turned against me.
- 20 My bone cleaveth to my skin and to my flesh, and I am escaped with the skin of my teeth.

Job Cries Out for Mercy

- 21 Have pity upon me, have pity upon me, O ye my friends; for the hand of God hath touched me.

22 Why do ye persecute me as God, and are not satisfied with my flesh?

Job's Certainty of Vindication—I Shall See God!

23 Oh that my words were now written! oh that they were printed in a book!

24 That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever!

25 For I know *that* my redeemer liveth, and *that* he shall stand at the latter *day* upon the earth:

26 And *though* after my skin *worms* destroy this *body*, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

27 Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; *though* my reins be consumed within me.

Job Warns His Friends

28 But ye should say, Why persecute we him, seeing the root of the matter is found in me?

29 Be ye afraid of the sword: for wrath *bringeth* the punishments of the sword, that ye may know *there is* a judgment.

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