

Bildad's Third and Last Speech (c. 2200 BC)

Job 25

Bildad Insists That Men Cannot Be Righteous Before God

- 1 Then answered Bildad the Shuhite, and said,
- 2 Dominion and fear *are* with him, he maketh peace in his high places.
- 3 Is there any number of his armies? and upon whom doth not his light arise?
- 4 How then can man be justified with God? or how can he be clean *that is* born of a woman?
- 5 Behold even to the moon, and it shineth not; yea, the stars are not pure in his sight.
- 6 How much less man, *that is* a worm? and the son of man, *which is* a worm?

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

Job 26

Job Responds With Sarcasm

- 1 But Job answered and said,
- 2 How hast thou helped *him that is* without power? *how* savest thou the arm *that hath* no strength?
- 3 How hast thou counseled *him that hath* no wisdom? and *how* hast thou plentifully declared the thing as it is?
- 4 To whom hast thou uttered words? and whose spirit came from thee?

Job Shows That He is Perfectly Aware of the Greatness of God

- 5 Dead *things* are formed from under the waters, and the inhabitants thereof.
- 6 Hell *is* naked before him, and destruction hath no covering.
- 7 He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, *and* hangeth the earth upon nothing.
- 8 He bindeth up the waters in his thick clouds; and the cloud is not rent under them.
- 9 He holdeth back the face of his throne, *and* spreadeth his cloud upon it.
- 10 He hath compassed the waters with bounds, until the day and night come to an end.
- 11 The pillars of heaven tremble and are astonished at his reproof.
- 12 He divideth the sea with his power, and by his understanding he smiteth through the proud.
- 13 By his spirit he hath garnished the heavens; his hand hath formed the crooked serpent.
- 14 Lo, these *are* parts of his ways: but how little a portion is heard of him? but the thunder of his power who can understand?

Job Holds Fast His Integrity (c. 2200 BC)

Job 27

Job Insists That He is Righteous (in spite of his friends' view that God's justice is punishing him for sin)

- 1 Moreover Job continued his parable, and said,
- 2 As God liveth, *who* hath taken away my judgment; and the Almighty, *who* hath vexed my soul;
- 3 All the while my breath *is* in me, and the spirit of God *is* in my nostrils;
- 4 My lips shall not speak wickedness, nor my tongue utter deceit.
- 5 God forbid that I should justify you: till I die I will not remove mine integrity from me.
- 6 My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go: my heart shall not reproach *me* so long as I live.

Job Affirms His Belief in the Justice of God (in spite of not understanding how it is being worked out in his own life)

- 7 Let mine enemy be as the wicked, and he that riseth up against me as the unrighteous.
- 8 For what *is* the hope of the hypocrite, though he hath gained, when God taketh away his soul?
- 9 Will God hear his cry when trouble cometh upon him?
- 10 Will he delight himself in the Almighty? will he always call upon God?
- 11 I will teach you by the hand of God: *that* which *is* with the Almighty will I not conceal.
- 12 Behold, all ye yourselves have seen *it*; why then are ye thus altogether vain?
- 13 This *is* the portion of a wicked man with God, and the heritage of oppressors, *which* they shall receive of the Almighty.
- 14 If his children be multiplied, *it is* for the sword: and his offspring shall not be satisfied with bread.
- 15 Those that remain of him shall be buried in death: and his widows shall not weep.
- 16 Though he heap up silver as the dust, and prepare raiment as the clay;
- 17 He may prepare *it*, but the just shall put *it* on, and the innocent shall divide the silver.
- 18 He buildeth his house as a moth, and as a booth *that* the keeper maketh.
- 19 The rich man shall lie down, but he shall not be gathered: he openeth his eyes, and he *is* not.
- 20 Terrors take hold on him as waters, a tempest stealeth him away in the night.

21 The east wind carrieth him away, and he departeth: and as a storm hurleth him out of his place.
 22 For *God* shall cast upon him, and not spare: he would fain flee out of his hand.
 23 *Men* shall clap their hands at him, and shall hiss him out of his place.

Job's Discourse on Wisdom (c. 2200 BC)

Job 28

Man Knows How to Find the Hidden Treasures of the Earth

1 Surely there is a vein for the silver, and a place for gold *where* they fine it.
 2 Iron is taken out of the earth, and brass *is* molten *out of* the stone.
 3 He setteth an end to darkness, and searcheth out all perfection: the stones of darkness, and the shadow of death.
 4 The flood breaketh out from the inhabitant; *even the waters* forgotten of the foot: they are dried up, they are gone away from men.
 5 *As for* the earth, out of it cometh bread: and under it is turned up as it were fire.
 6 The stones of it *are* the place of sapphires: and it hath dust of gold.
 7 *There is* a path which no fowl knoweth, and which the vulture's eye hath not seen:
 8 The lion's whelps have not trodden it, nor the fierce lion passed by it.
 9 He putteth forth his hand upon the rock; he overturneth the mountains by the roots.
 10 He cutteth out rivers among the rocks; and his eye seeth every precious thing.
 11 He bindeth the floods from overflowing; and *the thing that is* hid bringeth he forth to light.

Man Does Not Know How to Find the Greatest Treasure of All—Wisdom

12 But where shall wisdom be found? and where *is* the place of understanding?
 13 Man knoweth not the price thereof; neither is it found in the land of the living.
 14 The depth saith, *It is* not in me: and the sea saith, *It is* not with me.
 15 It cannot be gotten for gold, neither shall silver be weighed *for* the price thereof.
 16 It cannot be valued with the gold of Ophir, with the precious onyx, or the sapphire.
 17 The gold and the crystal cannot equal it: and the exchange of it *shall not be for* jewels of fine gold.
 18 No mention shall be made of coral, or of pearls: for the price of wisdom *is* above rubies.
 19 The topaz of Ethiopia shall not equal it, neither shall it be valued with pure gold.

Wisdom is Found Only With God

20 Whence then cometh wisdom? and where *is* the place of understanding?
 21 Seeing it is hid from the eyes of all living, and kept close from the fowls of the air.
 22 Destruction and death say, We have heard the fame thereof with our ears.
 23 God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof.
 24 For he looketh to the ends of the earth, *and* seeth under the whole heaven;
 25 To make the weight for the winds; and he weigheth the waters by measure.
 26 When he made a decree for the rain, and a way for the lightning of the thunder:
 27 Then did he see it, and declare it; he prepared it, yea, and searched it out.
 28 And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that *is* wisdom; and to depart from evil *is* understanding.

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