

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

Job 25

Bildad Insists That Men Cannot Be Righteous Before God

- 1 Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said,
- 2 "Domination and dread *are* with him
who makes peace in his high heavens.
- 3 Is there a number to his troops?
And upon whom does his light not rise?
- 4 "Indeed, how can a human being be righteous before God?
And how will he who is born of a woman be pure?
- 5 Look, even *the* moon is not bright,
and *the* stars are not pure in his sight.
- 6 How much less for a human being *who is* a maggot,
and a human *who is* a worm?"

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

Job 26

Job Responds With Sarcasm

- 1 Then Job answered and said,
- 2 "How you have helped one who has no power!
How you have assisted *the* arm that has no strength!
- 3 How you have advised one who has no wisdom!
And *what* sound wisdom you have made known in abundance!
- 4 With whose help have you uttered words,
and whose breath has come forth from you?

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

- 5 "The spirits of the dead tremble
below *the* waters and their inhabitants.
- 6 Sheol *is* naked before him,
and there is no covering for Abaddon.
- 7 He stretches out *the* north over emptiness;
he hangs *the* earth over nothing.
- 8 *He* ties up *the* water in its clouds,
and *the* cloud is not torn open beneath it.
- 9 *He* covers *the* face of *the* full moon;
he spreads his cloud over it.
- 10 He has described a circle on *the* face of *the* water
between light and darkness.
- 11 "*The* pillars of heaven tremble,
and they are astounded at his rebuke.
- 12 By his power he stilled the sea,
and by his understanding he struck down Rahab.
- 13 By his breath the heavens were made clear;
his hand pierced *the* fleeing snake.
- 14 Look, these *are* the outer fringes of his ways,
and how faint is the word *that* we hear of him!
But who can understand the thunder of his power?"

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 Then Job again took up his discourse and said,

- 2 "As God lives, he has removed my justice,
and Shaddai has made my inner self bitter.
- 3 For as long as my breath *is* in me,
and the spirit of God *is* in my nose,
- 4 my lips surely will not speak falseness,
and my tongue surely will not utter deceit.
- 5 Far be it from me that I would say that you are right;
until I pass away, I will not put away from me my blamelessness.
- 6 I hold fast to my righteousness, and I will not let it go;
my heart will not blame *any* of my days.

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 my enemy be like *the* wicked
and my opponent like *the* unrighteous,
8 for what *is the* hope of *the* godless when he cuts *them* off,
when God takes away his life?
- 9 Will God hear his cry of distress
when distress comes upon him?
- 10 Or, in Shaddai will he find delight?
Will he call upon God at all times?
- 11 "I will teach you about God's hand;
I will not conceal that *which is* with Shaddai.
- 12 Look, you all have seen,
and why in the world have you become altogether vain?
- 13 "This *is the* portion of *the* wicked human being with God,
and they receive from Shaddai *the* inheritance of *the* ruthless.
- 14 If their children multiply, *it is* for *the* sword,
and his offspring do not have enough to eat.
- 15 Their survivors are buried through the plague,
and their widows do not weep.
- 16 If he heaps up silver like the dust
and fashions clothing like the clay,
17 he makes *it* ready, and *the* righteous will wear *it*,
and *the* innocent will divide *the* silver.
- 18 "He builds his house like the moth,
and like a booth *that* a watchman has made.
- 19 He goes to bed *with* wealth, but he will do so no more;
he opens his eyes, and it is gone.
- 20 Terrors overtake him like the water;
a storm wind carries him off *in the* night.
- 21 *The* east wind lifts him up, and he is gone,
and it sweeps him away from his place.
- 22 And it hurls at him, and it has no compassion;
he will quickly flee from its power.
- 23 It claps its hands over him,
and it hisses at him from its place.

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

Job 28

Man Knows How to Find the Hidden Treasures of the Earth

- 1 "Indeed, there is a mine for silver
and a place for gold to be refined.
- 2 Iron is taken from dust,
and he pours out copper *from* ore.
- 3 He puts an end to darkness,
and he searches out the farthest limits
for the ore *in* gloom and deep shadow.

- 4 He breaks open a mine shaft away from where people dwell;
those who are forgotten by travelers,
they dangle, they sway *far away* from human beings.
- 5 *As for the* earth, from it comes food,
but underneath it, it is turned up as *by* fire.
- 6 Its stones *are the* place of sapphire,
and *the* earthen dirt has gold.
- 7 "*It is* a path a bird of prey does not know
and *the* black kite's eye has not seen.
- 8 Proud wild animals have not trodden it;
the lion in its prime has not prowled over it.
- 9 He puts his hand on the hard rock;
he overturns mountains by *the* roots.
- 10 He cuts out tunnels in the rocks,
and his eye sees every treasure.
- 11 He dams up rivers from *their* sources,
and he brings secret things to *the* light.

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

- 12 "But from where will wisdom be found?
And where in the world *is the* place of understanding?
- 13 A human being does not know its proper value,
and it is not found in *the* land of the living.
- 14 The deep says, 'It is not in me,'
and *the* sea says, 'It is not with me.'
- 15 "Refined gold cannot be gotten in its place,
and silver cannot be weighed out *as* its price.
- 16 It cannot be bought for the gold of Ophir,
for precious onyx or sapphire.
- 17 Gold and glass cannot be compared with it,
and its substitution *cannot be* an ornament of refined gold.
- 18 Black corals and crystal will not be mentioned,
and wisdom's price *is* more than red corals.
- 19 The topaz of Cush cannot be compared with it;
it cannot be bought for pure gold.

Wisdom is Found Only With God

- 20 Indeed, from where does wisdom come?
And where in the world *is the* place of understanding?
- 21 It is hidden from *the* eyes of all living,
and it is concealed from *the* birds of the heaven.
- 22 Abaddon and Death say,
'We heard its rumor with our ears.'
- 23 "God understands its way,
and he knows its place,
24 for he himself looks to *the* end of the earth;
he sees under all the heaven.
- 25 When he gave weight to the wind
and he apportioned *the* waters by measure,
26 when he made a rule for the rain
and a way for *the* thunder's lightning bolt,
27 then he saw it and talked about it;
he established it, and moreover, he explored it.
- 28 And to the human beings he said,
'Look, the fear of the Lord *is* wisdom,
and to depart from evil *is* understanding.'"