

**Bildad's Second Speech (c. 2200 BC)**

Job 18

**Bildad Criticizes Job Harshly**

1 Then Bildad the Shuhite answered:

- 2 “How long until you make an end of words?  
You must consider, and then we can talk.
- 3 Why should we be regarded as beasts,  
and considered stupid in your sight?
- 4 You who tear yourself to pieces in your anger,  
will the earth be abandoned for your sake?  
Or will a rock be moved from its place?

**Bildad's Claim—The Wicked are Dogged by Calamity**

- 5 “Yes, the lamp of the wicked is extinguished;  
his flame of fire does not shine.
- 6 The light in his tent grows dark;  
his lamp above him is extinguished.
- 7 His vigorous steps are restricted,  
and his own counsel throws him down.
- 8 For he has been thrown into a net by his feet  
and he wanders into a mesh.
- 9 A trap seizes him by the heel;  
a snare grips him.
- 10 A rope is hidden for him on the ground  
and a trap for him lies on the path.
- 11 Terrors frighten him on all sides  
and dog his every step.
- 12 Calamity is hungry for him,  
and misfortune is ready at his side.
- 13 It eats away parts of his skin;  
the most terrible death devours his limbs.
- 14 He is dragged from the security of his tent,  
and marched off to the king of terrors.
- 15 Fire resides in his tent;  
over his residence burning sulfur is scattered.
- 16 Below his roots dry up,  
and his branches wither above.
- 17 His memory perishes from the earth,  
he has no name in the land.
- 18 He is driven from light into darkness  
and is banished from the world.
- 19 He has neither children nor descendants among his people,  
no survivor in those places he once stayed.
- 20 People of the west are appalled at his fate;  
people of the east are seized with horror, saying,
- 21 ‘Surely such is the residence of an evil man;  
and this is the place of one who has not known God.’”

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

Job 19

**Job Bitterly Accuses His Friends of Tormenting Him**

1 Then Job answered:

- 2 “How long will you torment me  
and crush me with your words?
- 3 These ten times you have been reproaching me;

- you are not ashamed to attack me!  
4 But even if it were true that I have erred,  
my error remains solely my concern!  
5 If indeed you would exalt yourselves above me  
and plead my disgrace against me,  
6 know then that God has wronged me  
and encircled me with his net.

**Job Complains that Nobody Helps Him**

- 7 “If I cry out, ‘Violence!’  
I receive no answer;  
I cry for help,  
but there is no justice.  
8 He has blocked my way so I cannot pass,  
and has set darkness over my paths.  
9 He has stripped me of my honor  
and has taken the crown off my head.  
10 He tears me down on every side until I perish;  
he uproots my hope like one uproots a tree.  
11 Thus his anger burns against me,  
and he considers me among his enemies.  
12 His troops advance together;  
they throw up a siege ramp against me,  
and they camp around my tent.

**Job Feels Isolated and Alone**

- 13 “He has put my relatives far from me;  
my acquaintances only turn away from me.  
14 My kinsmen have failed me;  
my friends have forgotten me.  
15 My guests and my servant girls consider me a stranger;  
I am a foreigner in their eyes.  
16 I summon my servant, but he does not respond,  
even though I implore him with my own mouth.  
17 My breath is repulsive to my wife;  
I am loathsome to my brothers.  
18 Even youngsters have scorned me;  
when I get up, they scoff at me.  
19 All my closest friends detest me;  
and those whom I love have turned against me.  
20 My bones stick to my skin and my flesh;  
I have escaped alive with only the skin of my teeth.

**Job Cries Out for Mercy**

- 21 Have pity on me, my friends, have pity on me,  
for the hand of God has struck me.  
22 Why do you pursue me like God does?  
Will you never be satiated with my flesh?

**Job’s Certainty of Vindication—I Shall See God!**

- 23 “O that my words were written down,  
O that they were written on a scroll,  
24 that with an iron chisel and with lead  
they were engraved in a rock forever!  
25 As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives,  
and that as the last  
he will stand upon the earth.  
26 And after my skin has been destroyed,

27 yet in my flesh I will see God,  
whom I will see for myself,  
and whom my own eyes will behold,  
and not another.  
My heart grows faint within me.

**Job Warns His Friends**

28 If you say, 'How we will pursue him,  
since the root of the trouble is found in him!'  
29 Fear the sword yourselves,  
for wrath brings the punishment by the sword,  
so that you may know  
that there is judgment."

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