

**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:

- 2 “Dominion and awesome might belong to God;  
he establishes peace in his heights.
- 3 Can his armies be numbered?  
On whom does his light not rise?
- 4 How then can a human being be righteous before God?  
How can one born of a woman be pure?
- 5 If even the moon is not bright,  
and the stars are not pure as far as he is concerned,
- 6 how much less a mortal man, who is but a maggot—  
a son of man, who is only a worm!”

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

Job 26

**Job Responds With Sarcasm**

1 Then Job replied:

- 2 “How you have helped the powerless!  
How you have saved the person who has no strength!
- 3 How you have advised the one without wisdom,  
and abundantly revealed your insight!
- 4 To whom did you utter these words?  
And whose spirit has come forth from your mouth?

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

- 5 “The dead tremble—  
those beneath the waters  
and all that live in them.
- 6 The underworld is naked before God;  
the place of destruction lies uncovered.
- 7 He spreads out the northern skies over empty space;  
he suspends the earth on nothing.
- 8 He locks the waters in his clouds,  
and the clouds do not burst with the weight of them.
- 9 He conceals the face of the full moon,  
shrouding it with his clouds.
- 10 He marks out the horizon on the surface of the waters  
as a boundary between light and darkness.
- 11 The pillars of the heavens tremble  
and are amazed at his rebuke.
- 12 By his power he stills the sea;  
by his wisdom he cut Rahab the great sea monster to pieces.
- 13 By his breath the skies became fair;  
his hand pierced the fleeing serpent.
- 14 Indeed, these are but the outer fringes of his ways!  
How faint is the whisper 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 And Job took up his discourse again:

- 2 "As surely as God lives, who has denied me justice,  
the Almighty, who has made my life bitter—  
3 for while my spirit is still in me,  
and the breath from God is in my nostrils,  
4 my lips will not speak wickedness,  
and my tongue will whisper no deceit.  
5 I will never declare that you three are in the right;  
until I die, I will not set aside my integrity!  
6 I will maintain my righteousness  
and never let it go;  
my conscience will not reproach me  
for as 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 "May my enemy be like the wicked,  
my adversary like the unrighteous.  
8 For what hope does the godless have when he is cut off,  
when God takes away his life?  
9 Does God listen to his cry  
when distress overtakes him?  
10 Will he find delight in the Almighty?  
Will he call out to God at all times?  
11 I will teach you about the power of God;  
What is on the Almighty's mind I will not conceal.  
12 If you yourselves have all seen this,  
Why in the world do you continue this meaningless talk?  
13 This is the portion of the wicked man  
allotted by God,  
the inheritance that evildoers receive  
from the Almighty.  
14 If his children increase—it is for the sword!  
His offspring never have enough to eat.  
15 Those who survive him are buried by the plague,  
and their widows do not mourn for them.  
16 If he piles up silver like dust  
and stores up clothing like mounds of clay,  
17 what he stores up a righteous man will wear,  
and an innocent man will inherit his silver.  
18 The house he builds is as fragile as a moth's cocoon,  
like a hut that a watchman has made.  
19 He goes to bed wealthy, but will do so no more.  
When he opens his eyes, it is all gone.  
20 Terrors overwhelm him like a flood;  
at night a whirlwind carries him off.  
21 The east wind carries him away, and he is gone;  
it sweeps him out of his place.  
22 It hurls itself against him without pity  
as he flees headlong from its power.  
23 It claps its hands at him in derision  
and hisses him away from 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 mine for silver,  
and a place where gold is refined.
- 2 Iron is taken from the ground,  
and rock is poured out as copper.
- 3 Man puts an end to the darkness;  
he searches the farthest recesses  
for the ore in the deepest darkness.
- 4 Far from where people live he sinks a shaft,  
in places travelers have long forgotten,  
far from other people he dangles and sways.
- 5 The earth, from which food comes,  
is overturned below as though by fire;  
6 a place whose stones are sapphires  
and which contains dust of gold;  
7 a hidden path no bird of prey knows—  
no falcon's eye has spotted it.
- 8 Proud beasts have not set foot on it,  
and no lion has passed along it.
- 9 On the flinty rock man has set to work with his hand;  
he has overturned mountains at their bases.
- 10 He has cut out channels through the rocks;  
his eyes have spotted every precious thing.
- 11 He has searched the sources of the rivers  
and what was hidden he has brought into the light.

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

- 12 “But wisdom—where can it be found?  
Where is the place of understanding?
- 13 Mankind does not know its place;  
it cannot be found in the land of the living.
- 14 The deep says, ‘It is not with me.’  
And the sea says, ‘It is not with me.’
- 15 Fine gold cannot be given in exchange for it,  
nor can its price be weighed out in silver.
- 16 It cannot be measured out for purchase with the gold of Ophir,  
with precious onyx or sapphires.
- 17 Neither gold nor crystal can be compared with it,  
nor can a vase of gold match its worth.
- 18 Of coral and jasper no mention will be made;  
the price of wisdom is more than pearls.
- 19 The topaz of Cush cannot be compared with it;  
it cannot be purchased with pure gold.

**Wisdom is Found Only With God**

- 20 “But wisdom—where does it come from?  
Where is the place of understanding?
- 21 For it has been hidden  
from the eyes of every living creature,  
and from the birds of the sky it has been concealed.
- 22 Destruction and Death say,  
‘With our ears we have heard a rumor about where it can be found.’
- 23 God understands the way to it,  
and he alone knows its place.
- 24 For he looks to the ends of the earth  
and observes everything under the heavens.

- 25 When he made the force of the wind  
and measured the waters with a gauge.
- 26 When he imposed a limit for the rain,  
and a path for the thunderstorm,
- 27 then he looked at wisdom and assessed its value;  
he established it and examined it closely.
- 28 And he said to mankind,  
‘The fear of the LORD—that is wisdom,  
and to turn away from evil is understanding.’”

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