

Zophar's Second and Last Speech (c. 2200 BC)

Job 20

Zophar is Offended by Job's Rebuke

- 1 Then answered Zophar the Naamathite, and said,
- 2 Therefore do my thoughts cause me to answer, and for *this* I make haste.
- 3 I have heard the check of my reproach, and the spirit of my understanding causeth me to answer.

Zophar Expands on Bildad's Perspective—The Joy of the Wicked is Short and They are Quickly Punished by God

- 4 Knowest thou *not* this of old, since man was placed upon earth,
- 5 That the triumphing of the wicked *is* short, and the joy of the hypocrite *but* for a moment?
- 6 Though his excellency mount up to the heavens, and his head reach unto the clouds;
- 7 *Yet* he shall perish for ever like his own dung: they which have seen him shall say, Where *is* he?
- 8 He shall fly away as a dream, and shall not be found: yea, he shall be chased away as a vision of the night.
- 9 The eye also *which* saw him shall *see him* no more; neither shall his place any more behold him.
- 10 His children shall seek to please the poor, and his hands shall restore their goods.
- 11 His bones are full *of the sin* of his youth, which shall lie down with him in the dust.
- 12 Though wickedness be sweet in his mouth, *though* he hide it under his tongue;
- 13 *Though* he spare it, and forsake it not; but keep it still within his mouth:
- 14 *Yet* his meat in his bowels is turned, *it is* the gall of asps within him.
- 15 He hath swallowed down riches, and he shall vomit them up again: God shall cast them out of his belly.
- 16 He shall suck the poison of asps: the viper's tongue shall slay him.
- 17 He shall not see the rivers, the floods, the brooks of honey and butter.
- 18 That which he labored for shall he restore, and shall not swallow *it* down: according to *his* substance *shall* the restitution *be*, and he shall not rejoice *therein*.
- 19 Because he hath oppressed *and* hath forsaken the poor; *because* he hath violently taken away an house which he builded not;
- 20 Surely he shall not feel quietness in his belly, he shall not save of that which he desired.
- 21 There shall none of his meat be left; therefore shall no man look for his goods.
- 22 In the fullness of his sufficiency he shall be in straits: every hand of the wicked shall come upon him.
- 23 *When* he is about to fill his belly, *God* shall cast the fury of his wrath upon him, and shall rain *it* upon him while he is eating.
- 24 He shall flee from the iron weapon, *and* the bow of steel shall strike him through.
- 25 It is drawn, and cometh out of the body; yea, the glittering sword cometh out of his gall: terrors *are* upon him.
- 26 All darkness *shall be* hid in his secret places: a fire not blown shall consume him; it shall go ill with him that is left in his tabernacle.
- 27 The heaven shall reveal his iniquity; and the earth shall rise up against him.
- 28 The increase of his house shall depart, *and his goods* shall flow away in the day of his wrath.
- 29 *This is* the portion of a wicked man from God, and the heritage appointed unto him by God.

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

Job 21

Job Tells His Friends to Listen

- 1 But Job answered and said,
- 2 Hear diligently my speech, and let this be your consolations.
- 3 Suffer me that I may speak; and after that I have spoken, mock on.
- 4 As for me, *is* my complaint to man? and if *it were so*, why should not my spirit be troubled?
- 5 Mark me, and be astonished, and lay *your* hand upon *your* mouth.
- 6 Even when I remember I am afraid, and trembling taketh hold on my flesh.

Job Points Out Exceptions to Their Worldview—The Wicked Are Prosperous

- 7 Wherefore do the wicked live, become old, yea, are mighty in power?
- 8 Their seed is established in their sight with them, and their offspring before their eyes.
- 9 Their houses *are* safe from fear, neither *is* the rod of God upon them.
- 10 Their bull gendereth, and faileth not; their cow calveth, and casteth not her calf.
- 11 They send forth their little ones like a flock, and their children dance.
- 12 They take the timbrel and harp, and rejoice at the sound of the organ.
- 13 They spend their days in wealth, and in a moment go down to the grave.
- 14 Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways.
- 15 What *is* the Almighty, that we should serve him? and what profit should we have, if we pray unto him?

16 Lo, their good *is* not in their hand: the counsel of the wicked is far from me.

Job Points Out Exceptions to Their Worldview—The Wicked Are Long-lived

17 How oft is the candle of the wicked put out! and *how oft* cometh their destruction upon them! *God* distributeth sorrows in his anger.

18 They are as stubble before the wind, and as chaff that the storm carrieth away.

19 God layeth up his iniquity for his children: he rewardeth him, and he shall know *it*.

20 His eyes shall see his destruction, and he shall drink of the wrath of the Almighty.

21 For what pleasure *hath* he in his house after him, when the number of his months is cut off in the midst?

Prelude to Ecclesiastes—The Prosperous and the Impoverished Suffer the Same Fate

22 Shall *any* teach God knowledge? seeing he judgeth those that are high.

23 One dieth in his full strength, being wholly at ease and quiet.

24 His breasts are full of milk, and his bones are moistened with marrow.

25 And another dieth in the bitterness of his soul, and never eateth with pleasure.

26 They shall lie down alike in the dust, and the worms shall cover them. [cf. [Ecc 2:15–17](#)]

Ask Those Who Travel the World—They Will Confirm the Peace and Prosperity of the Wicked

27 Behold, I know your thoughts, and the devices *which* ye wrongfully imagine against me.

28 For ye say, Where *is* the house of the prince? and where *are* the dwelling places of the wicked?

29 Have ye not asked them that go by the way? and do ye not know their tokens,

30 That the wicked is reserved to the day of destruction? they shall be brought forth to the day of wrath.

31 Who shall declare his way to his face? and who shall repay him *what* he hath done?

32 Yet shall he be brought to the grave, and shall remain in the tomb.

33 The clods of the valley shall be sweet unto him, and every man shall draw after him, as *there are* innumerable before him.

34 How then comfort ye me in vain, seeing in your answers there remaineth falsehood?

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