

Bildad's Second Speech (c. 2200 BC)

Job 18

Bildad Criticizes Job Harshly

- 1 Then Bildad the Shuhite responded,
- 2 “How long will you hunt for words?
Show understanding and then we can talk.
- 3 “Why are we regarded as beasts,
As stupid in your eyes?
- 4 “O you who tear yourself in your anger—
For your sake is the earth to be abandoned,
Or the rock to be moved from its place?

Bildad's Claim—The Wicked are Dogged by Calamity

- 5 “Indeed, the light of the wicked goes out,
And the flame of his fire gives no light.
- 6 “The light in his tent is darkened,
And his lamp goes out above him.
- 7 “His vigorous stride is shortened,
And his own scheme brings him down.
- 8 “For he is thrown into the net by his own feet,
And he steps on the webbing.
- 9 “A snare seizes *him* by the heel,
And a trap snaps shut on him.
- 10 “A noose for him is hidden in the ground,
And a trap for him on the path.
- 11 “All around terrors frighten him,
And harry him at every step.
- 12 “His strength is famished,
And calamity is ready at his side.
- 13 “His skin is devoured by disease,
The firstborn of death devours his limbs.
- 14 “He is torn from the security of his tent,
And they march him before the king of terrors.
- 15 “There dwells in his tent nothing of his;
Brimstone is scattered on his habitation.
- 16 “His roots are dried below,
And his branch is cut off above.
- 17 “Memory of him perishes from the earth,
And he has no name abroad.
- 18 “He is driven from light into darkness,
And chased from the inhabited world.
- 19 “He has no offspring or posterity among his people,
Nor any survivor where he sojourned.
- 20 “Those in the west are appalled at his fate,
And those in the east are seized with horror.
- 21 “Surely such are the dwellings of the wicked,
And this is the place of him who does not know God.”

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

Job 19

Job Bitterly Accuses His Friends of Tormenting Him

- 1 Then Job responded,
- 2 “How long will you torment me
And crush me with words?
- 3 “These ten times you have insulted me;

You are not ashamed to wrong me.

- 4 “Even if I have truly erred,
My error lodges with me.
- 5 “If indeed you vaunt yourselves against me
And prove my disgrace to me,
- 6 Know then that God has wronged me
And has closed His net around me.

Job Complains that Nobody Helps Him

- 7 “Behold, I cry, ‘Violence!’ but I get no answer;
I shout for help, but there is no justice.
- 8 “He has walled up my way so that I cannot pass,
And He has put darkness on my paths.
- 9 “He has stripped my honor from me
And removed the crown from my head.
- 10 “He breaks me down on every side, and I am gone;
And He has uprooted my hope like a tree.
- 11 “He has also kindled His anger against me
And considered me as His enemy.
- 12 “His troops come together,
And build up their way against me
And camp around my tent.

Job Feels Isolated and Alone

- 13 “He has removed my brothers far from me,
And my acquaintances are completely estranged from me.
- 14 “My relatives have failed,
And my intimate friends have forgotten me.
- 15 “Those who live in my house and my maids consider me a stranger.
I am a foreigner in their sight.
- 16 “I call to my servant, but he does not answer;
I have to implore him with my mouth.
- 17 “My breath is offensive to my wife,
And I am loathsome to my own brothers.
- 18 “Even young children despise me;
I rise up and they speak against me.
- 19 “All my associates abhor me,
And those I love have turned against me.
- 20 “My bone clings to my skin and my flesh,
And I have escaped *only* by the skin of my teeth.

Job Cries Out for Mercy

- 21 “Pity me, pity me, O you my friends,
For the hand of God has struck me.
- 22 “Why do you persecute me as God *does*,
And are not satisfied with my flesh?

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

- 23 “Oh that my words were written!
Oh that they were inscribed in a book!
- 24 “That with an iron stylus and lead
They were engraved in the rock forever!
- 25 “As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives,
And at the last He will take His stand on the earth.
- 26 “Even after my skin is destroyed,
Yet from my flesh I shall see God;
- 27 Whom I myself shall behold,
And whom my eyes will see and not another.

My heart faints within me!

Job Warns His Friends

- 28 “If you say, ‘How shall we persecute him?’
And ‘What pretext for a case against him can we find?’
- 29 “*Then* be afraid of the sword for yourselves,
For wrath *brings* the punishment of the sword,
So that you may know there is judgment.”

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