

The Book of Job Chapters 8-10

Bildad Responds to Job in Chapter 8

Job 8:1-6 Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said: ² "How long will you speak these *things*, And the words of your mouth *be like* a strong wind? ³ Does God subvert judgment? Or does the Almighty pervert justice? ⁴ If your sons have sinned against Him, He has cast them away for their transgression. ⁵ If you would earnestly seek God And make your supplication to the Almighty, ⁶ If you *were* pure and upright, Surely now He would awake for you, And prosper your rightful dwelling place.

Questions:

1. How would you describe Bildad's tone as he begins to speak?
2. What is Bildad saying to Job in verse three?
3. What is Bildad saying to Job in verse four?
4. What are your thoughts about Bildad's comments in verse four?
5. How do you think Job felt after Bildad's comment in verse 4?
6. What is Bildad saying in verses 5-6?

Job 8:7-10 ⁷ Though your beginning was small, Yet your latter end would increase abundantly. ⁸ "For inquire, please, of the former age, And consider the things discovered by their fathers; ⁹ For we *were born* yesterday, and know nothing, Because our days on earth *are* a shadow. ¹⁰ Will they not teach you and tell you, And utter words from their heart?

Questions:

1. What is Bildad's belief about the past?

Job 8:11-22 ¹¹ "Can the papyrus grow up without a marsh? Can the reeds flourish without water? ¹² While it *is* yet green *and* not cut down, It withers before any *other* plant. ¹³ So *are* the paths of all who forget God; And the hope of the hypocrite shall perish, ¹⁴ Whose confidence shall be cut off, And whose trust *is* a spider's web. ¹⁵ He leans on his house, but it does not stand. He holds it fast, but it does not endure. ¹⁶ He grows green in the sun, And his branches spread out in his garden. ¹⁷ His roots wrap around the rock heap, *And* look for a place in the stones. ¹⁸ If he is destroyed from his

place, Then *it* will deny him, *saying*, 'I have not seen you.' ¹⁹ "Behold, this is the joy of His way, And out of the earth others will grow. ²⁰ Behold, God will not cast away the blameless, Nor will He uphold the evildoers. ²¹ He will yet fill your mouth with laughing, And your lips with rejoicing. ²² Those who hate you will be clothed with shame, And the dwelling place of the wicked will come to nothing."

Questions:

1. How does Bildad relate verses 11 and 12 to verses 13 through 15?
2. What is Bildad saying about Job in verse 13?
3. What is wrong with Bildad's statement in verse 20?
4. Has Bildad been of any help to Job?

Job Responds to Bildad in Chapters 9 and 10

Job 9:1-12 ¹Then Job answered and said: ² "Truly I know *it is* so, But how can a man be righteous before God? ³ If one wished to contend with Him, He could not answer Him one time out of a thousand. ⁴ God *is* wise in heart and mighty in strength. Who has hardened *himself* against Him and prospered? ⁵ He removes the mountains, and they do not know When He overturns them in His anger; ⁶ He shakes the earth out of its place, And its pillars tremble; ⁷ He commands the sun, and it does not rise; He seals off the stars; ⁸ He alone spreads out the heavens, And treads on the waves of the sea; ⁹ He made the Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades, And the chambers of the south; ¹⁰ He does great things past finding out, Yes, wonders without number. ¹¹ If He goes by me, I do not see *Him*; If He moves past, I do not perceive Him; ¹² If He takes away, who can hinder Him? Who can say to Him, 'What are You doing?'

Questions:

1. Does Job appear to agree with what Bildad said in verses 1-2?
2. What is the issue Job has with what Bildad said (see verse 2)?
3. What is Job essentially saying in verses 3-10?
4. What is Job saying about God in verses 11-12?

Job 9:13-18 ¹³ God will not withdraw His anger, The allies of the proud lie prostrate beneath Him. ¹⁴ "How then can I answer Him, *And* choose my words *to reason* with Him? ¹⁵ For though I were righteous, I could not answer Him; I would beg mercy of my Judge. ¹⁶ If I called and He answered me, I would not believe that He was listening to

my voice. ¹⁷ For He crushes me with a tempest, And multiplies my wounds without cause. ¹⁸ He will not allow me to catch my breath, But fills me with bitterness.

Questions:

1. Does Job appear to have a healthy understanding of God in these verses?
2. Does Job seem to understand what it means to be righteous?
3. What are Job's thoughts about God's mercy in verses 15-18?

Job 9:19-24 ¹⁹ *If it is a matter of strength, indeed He is strong; And if of justice, who will appoint my day in court?* ²⁰ Though I were righteous, my own mouth would condemn me; Though I were blameless, it would prove me perverse. ²¹ "I am blameless, yet I do not know myself; I despise my life. ²² *It is all one thing; Therefore I say, 'He destroys the blameless and the wicked.'* ²³ If the scourge slays suddenly, He laughs at the plight of the innocent. ²⁴ The earth is given into the hand of the wicked. He covers the faces of its judges. If it is not *He*, who else could it be?

- Job believes he is righteous, but no one is greater or more righteous than God, so God can do whatever he wants and can treat the righteous the same as the wicked.

Questions:

1. What does Job think about his righteousness compared to God's in verses 19-21?
2. In verses 22-24, is Job being fair or correct about God's righteousness?

Job 9:25-35 ²⁵ "Now my days are swifter than a runner; They flee away, they see no good. ²⁶ They pass by like swift ships, Like an eagle swooping on its prey. ²⁷ If I say, 'I will forget my complaint, I will put off my sad face and wear a smile,' ²⁸ I am afraid of all my sufferings; I know that You will not hold me innocent. ²⁹ *If I am condemned, Why then do I labor in vain?* ³⁰ If I wash myself with snow water, And cleanse my hands with soap, ³¹ Yet You will plunge me into the pit, And my own clothes will abhor me. ³² "For *He is* not a man, as I am, *That I may answer Him, And that we should go to court together.* ³³ Nor is there any mediator between us, *Who may lay his hand on us both.* ³⁴ Let Him take His rod away from me, and do not let dread of Him terrify me. ³⁵ *Then I would speak and not fear Him, but it is not so with me.*

- Job seems to think that no matter how righteous he is, (or how righteous he thinks he is), God will treat him no better than a wicked person.

Questions:

1. Why might Job think there is no benefit from God in being righteous (see verses 28-31)?
2. What is Job saying in verse 32 that explains why God does not treat him as a righteous person?
3. What do you think Job means in verse 33, “Nor is there any mediator between us, *Who* may lay his hand on us both”?
4. Why does Job think there is a need for a mediator between him and God (verse 33)?
5. Do Christians have a mediator?
 - a. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, (1 Tim. 2:5)
6. According to Job in verses 34-35, what is necessary for Job to be able to speak to God?

Job Continues to Respond to Bildad

Job 10:1-7 ¹My soul loathes my life; I will give free course to my complaint; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul. ²I will say to God, Do not condemn me; Show me why You contend with me. ³*Does it* seem good to You that You should oppress, That You should despise the work of Your hands, And smile on the counsel of the wicked? ⁴Do You have eyes of flesh? Or do You see as man sees? ⁵*Are* Your days like the days of a mortal man? *Are* Your years like the days of a mighty man, ⁶That You should seek for my iniquity And search out my sin, ⁷Although You know that I am not wicked, And *there is* no one who can deliver from Your hand?

Questions:

1. What is Job’s state of mind at this point in Job 10:1-2?
2. What is Job saying about God in verse 3? Is this fair to God?
3. What is Job asking of God in verses 4-7?
4. Is Job implying that God cannot understand us because He is not like us?

How do the following Scripture relate to Job's complaint in verses Job 10:4-7?

Hebrews 2:14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

- Job's complaint in verse 2 will be answered. There is purpose in what God has allowed to happen in Job's life. God will show Job some of his shortcomings.

Job 10:8-17 ⁸ `Your hands have made me and fashioned me, An intricate unity; Yet You would destroy me. ⁹ Remember, I pray, that You have made me like clay. And will You turn me into dust again? ¹⁰ Did you not pour me out like milk, And curdle me like cheese, ¹¹ Clothe me with skin and flesh, And knit me together with bones and sinews? ¹² You have granted me life and favor, And Your care has preserved my spirit. ¹³ `And these *things* You have hidden in Your heart; I know that this *was* with You: ¹⁴ If I sin, then You mark me, And will not acquit me of my iniquity. ¹⁵ If I am wicked, woe to me; Even *if* I am righteous, I cannot lift up my head. *I am* full of disgrace; See my misery! ¹⁶ If *my head* is exalted, You hunt me like a fierce lion, And again You show Yourself awesome against me. ¹⁷ You renew Your witnesses against me, And increase Your indignation toward me; Changes and war are *ever* with me.

Questions:

1. What is Job claiming about God's treatment of His creation in verses 8-12?
2. What is Job referring to when he says in verse 13: "And these *things* You have hidden in Your heart; I know that this *was* with You"?
3. How does Job think God's justice should be administered, as described in verse 14?
4. How does Job see God's way of justice as described in verses 15-17?

Job 10:18-22 ¹⁸ `Why then have You brought me out of the womb? Oh, that I had perished, and no eye had seen me! ¹⁹ I would have been as though I had not been. I would have been carried from the womb to the grave. ²⁰ Are not my days few? Cease! Leave me alone, that I may take a little comfort, ²¹ Before I go *to the place from which* I shall not return, To the land of darkness and the shadow of death, ²² A land as dark as darkness *itself*, As the shadow of death, without any order, *Where* even the light is like darkness.'