

“Now Mine Eyes Seeth Thee”

Lesson 10

Bildad’s Third Speech & Job’s Reply Job’s Claim Of Righteousness & His Discourse On True Wisdom Job 25-28

Introduction

The shortness of Bildad’s last speech and the absence of any more words from Zophar leaves the impression that the friends might have “given up” on trying to convince Job of their position. What few words Bildad offers (**ch. 25**) adds nothing new to the debate, and in Job’s response to him (**ch. 26**), he returns a terse reply and then ignores the substance of what he said.

In **ch. 27**, Job continues to affirm his righteousness and displays his understanding of the dead and the eventual end of the wicked. He closes this section of the debate by showing his understanding of “true wisdom” as it eludes man and resides only with God (**ch. 28**).

Bildad’s Third Speech (Job 25:1-6)

1. How does Bildad begin his last speech? (**25:2**) What would you say is the theme to this speech? What contribution did this speech make to the overall debate? (**cp. 4:17; 9:2**)
2. What are the points Bildad makes in **25:2-3** & **25:4-6**? How might what Bildad says be in response to what Job had requested in **23:3-4**?

Job’s Reply To Bildad (Job 26:1-14)

3. How would you describe the beginning of Job’s reply to Bildad? (**26:1-4**) Of what might Job be accusing Bildad in **26:4b**? (**cp. 4:17-20**)
4. What does Job show in **26:5-14**? (**cp. 12:1-3; 13:2**) How does he describe the majesty of God? Over what things does Job marvel about God’s power? In **26:5-6**, what is Job’s concluding view of the state of the dead? (**cp. 3:13-19; 7:8-10; 14:10-12; 21:23-26; 24:19-20**)

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Job's Claim Of Righteousness (27:1-23)

5. To what argument does Job return in 27:1-6? What accusations does he continue to direct towards God? (27:2) What does Job do in 27:7-12? In 27:11-12, how does Job chide his “friends?”

6. What is Job describing in 27:13-23? What difference(s) do you see between these words and those of Bildad (8:14-19) and Zophar (20:4-19)?

7. The “enemy” and the one “who rises up against” Job (27:7) could be the wicked he describes in 27:13-23. Yet, who else do you think it could refer to, in light of Job's words in 27:5a, 7b, 11-12?

Job's Discourse On True Wisdom (Job 28:1-28)

8. What is the theme of Job's words in 28:1-28? Why do you think he would begin to discuss this topic at this point in the debate? What does this suggest to you about the growth of Job's understanding throughout this entire ordeal?

9. What analogy does Job use in making his point about true wisdom? (28:1-11) In what ways does Job praise man or speak of his abilities?

10. By contrast, what does Job point out in 28:12-22? In subtle ways, who might Job be addressing in this section? In 28:22, what is Abaddon?

11. Given what Job has affirmed about true wisdom and man's inadequacies in finding it, what does Job declare about wisdom in 28:23-28? What does Job give as God's answer to the question in 28:20? (28:28)