

“Now Mine Eyes Seeth Thee”

Lesson 8

Bildad’s, Zophar’s Second Speeches & Job’s Replies Job 18-21

Introduction

As Bildad reflects back on what Job has just said, he appears to be incensed by his words (18:1-3). Therefore, he makes another attempt to teach Job about the wicked and their destruction. In reply, Job covers the entire length of the “emotional spectrum.” On one end (19:7-22), he decries his sufferings, concluding an appeal for sympathy & pity from his “friends” (19:21). Yet, he rises to superb heights in his sufferings by boldly declaring “I know that my Redeemer lives” (19:25), displaying that he has not *totally* given up on God, even though he has questioned Him.

Zophar is also determined to let Job know just how insulted he is (20:2-3). Like Bildad, he makes yet another attempt to teach Job about the wicked (20:5-19). In responding to Zophar, Job shows an understanding not shown by his “friends”. He agrees that the wicked do prosper (21:7-13a), but he is not like them (21:16). Job knows that in the end, it is God who will judge them justly (21:17-20).

Bildad's Second Speech (Job 18:1-21)

1. How does Bildad begin his reply to Job? (18:2) What question does he pose in 18:3? (cp. 12:7) What point do you think he is making to Job in 18:4?
2. In 18:5-21, what is Bildad describing? Consider the following verses, and write down what you think Bildad is saying specifically.

(18:7-8) _____
(18:16-19) _____
3. How does Bildad conclude this speech in 18:21? What is his final thought as to why the wicked suffer?

Job's Reply To Bildad (Job 19:1-29)

4. How does Job begin his reply to Bildad? (19:1-3) How does he express his weariness with him and the other two? What again is Job's conclusion regarding the failure of his “friends” to prove their charges against him? (19:5-6)

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5. What is Job's complaint in 19:7-12? (cp. 9:23-24) What other calamities does Job bemoan? (19:13-19) How again does Job describe his physical condition in 19:20? What appeal does Job make in 19:21-22?
6. To what height does Job soar in 19:23-27? What do you think he means? Of what does Job seem certain regarding his "friends?" (19:28-29)

Zophar's Second Speech (Job 20:1-29)

7. How does Zophar begin to answer Job? (20:2-3) What does Zophar emphasize in 20:4-11? What does Zophar say will happen to the wicked man who has prospered? (20:12-19) By his description of the wicked in 20:19, do you feel Zophar has again insinuated something untoward about Job?
8. How does Zophar further describe the wicked man in 20:20-22? According to Zophar, how does the wicked come to his end? (20:23-29) Is there any point or application Zophar makes that you think is right?

Job's Reply To Zophar (Job 21:1-34)

9. In what calm way does Job reply to Zophar? (21:1-4) What point does Job make in 21:7-16? How does this compare with what his "friends" have been saying? (cp. 15:20-24; 18:5-20; 20:22-28) Though he decrys this injustice, what does he declare about himself and the wicked? (21:16)
10. What do you see Job beginning to do in 21:17-19? Refusing to assume as his "friends" had done, what conclusion does Job state about the wicked and God's knowledge of them in 21:20-22? What do you think Job is saying in 21:23-26? Do you agree with what Job is saying in these verses?

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11. To what does Job return in 21:27-34? What do you think Job means when he says "Behold, I know your thoughts,..." (21:27) What do you think Job is saying in 21:31-33? Based on how Job regards the wicked, how does he conclude his remarks to his "friends?" (21:34)