

"Now Mine Eyes Seeth Thee"

Lesson 5

Bildad's First Speech & Job's Reply Job 8-10

Introduction

Having just heard Job respond to Eliphaz's speech, Bildad speaks to Job's defense of his innocence. He was totally unimpressed with Job's words (8:2), and Bildad does not seem to possess the "tact" of Eliphaz; he gets right to the point. In this, Bildad comes across as more insensitive than Eliphaz, though all of Job's "friends" were unfeeling to his sufferings. Whereas Eliphaz used revelation and religious feelings as proof for his arguments, Bildad claims the wisdom of the ancients as the basis for his judgment of Job (8:8-10).

In Job's reply to Bildad, Job complains against God's control of the universe (9:13-24), and protests against what appears to him to be totally unfair treatment for a life lived in righteousness (10:15-17).

Bildad's First Speech (Job 8:1-22)

1. How does Bildad react to what Job has just said in response to Eliphaz? (8:2) What accusation does Bildad make against Job in 8:3?
2. From 8:4 to 8:6, what three insinuations, each beginning with "if", does Bildad make against Job? If Job will take heed to the friends' advice (cp. 5:8; 8:5), what is in store for the patriarch? (8:7)
3. On what does Bildad base his argument for Job's suffering? (8:8-10) Do we still see this same type of thinking today in religion? In what way(s)?
4. What did the ancients teach about the life of the wicked? (8:11-13) What did they teach about the wicked man's confidence in life? (8:14-15) What did they teach would be the end of the wicked? (8:16-19)

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5. What final reminder did Bildad give Job? (8:20) What hope did he give? (8:21-22) What does Bildad imply Job needs to do to enjoy this "hope?" How would you summarize Bildad's main message?

Job's Reply To Bildad (Job 9:1 - 10:22)

6. In what does Job agree with his "friends?" (9:2; cp. 8:3,20) Yet, in agreement, what does Job say is his dilemma? (9:3) According to Job, why is man unable to contend with God? (9:4-12)
7. What does Job know of God's anger? (9:13) From 9:14-24, what does Job seem to be complaining against? Especially what seems to be Job's protest in 9:22-24? Was he right in this? Why would Job be talking this way?
8. To what thought does Job return in 9:25-26? (cp. 7:6) Of what is Job afraid to do and why? (9:27-28) Of what is Job convinced in his own mind? (9:29-32) How does Job lament his situation before God? (9:33-35)
9. Because he has no umpire (9:33), what does Job decide to do? (10:1) What is his complaint to God? (10:2-7) On what basis does Job seem to be contending with God? (10:8-13)
10. What does Job admit? (10:14) Yet, how does Job feel? (10:15) How does he feel God has treated him? (10:16-17) In all, how would you describe this section of Job's reply?
11. What theme does Job bring up again? (10:18-22) How would you summarize Job's main feelings expressed in his reply?