

**Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said:**

- 2 "How long will you say these things,  
and the words of your mouth be a great wind?
- 3 Does God pervert justice?  
Or does the Almighty pervert the right?
- 4 If your children have sinned against him,  
he has delivered them into the hand of their transgression.
- 5 If you will seek God  
and plead with the Almighty for mercy,
- 6 if you are pure and upright,  
surely then he will rouse himself for you  
and restore your rightful habitation.
- 7 And though your beginning was small,  
your latter days will be very great.
  
- 8 "For inquire, please, of bygone ages,  
and consider what the fathers have searched out.
- 9 For we are but of yesterday and know nothing,  
for our days on earth are a shadow.
- 10 Will they not teach you and tell you  
and utter words out of their understanding?
  
- 11 "Can papyrus grow where there is no marsh?  
Can reeds flourish where there is no water?
- 12 While yet in flower and not cut down,  
they wither before any other plant.
- 13 Such are the paths of all who forget God;  
the hope of the godless shall perish.
- 14 His confidence is severed,  
and his trust is a spider's web.
- 15 He leans against his house, but it does not stand;  
he lays hold of it, but it does not endure.
- 16 He is a lush plant before the sun,  
and his shoots spread over his garden.
- 17 His roots entwine the stone heap;  
he looks upon a house of stones.
- 18 If he is destroyed from his place,  
then it will deny him, saying, 'I have never seen you.'
- 19 Behold, this is the joy of his way,  
and out of the soil others will spring.
  
- 20 "Behold, God will not reject a blameless man,  
nor take the hand of evildoers.
- 21 He will yet fill your mouth with laughter,  
and your lips with shouting.
- 22 Those who hate you will be clothed with shame,  
and the tent of the wicked will be no more."

## Ch8- Bildad 1<sup>st</sup> Speech

He does not start very politely, alarmed by Jobs rashness, he says he is a 'windbag', there is no weight to his words. Bildad seems more interested in defending his view of God than grieving with his hurting friend.

### Is God just or not? V3-7

Does God twist true judgement? is God like a merchant, using false weights<sup>1</sup>? Job if your life has gone down the tube you must have done something wrong. Job has not said this, he believes in God's justice but cannot see it. But for Bildad, the action in the life matches the type of life. Blameless means blessing, wicked means 'watch out!!!'

God is just, his judgement is right, He doesn't just preform just acts and come to just decisions, He is just. It is a part of his character. It is impossible for God to be unjust. Bildad has good theology but bad application, for God is not Karma.

But he applies his principle somewhat harshly and pointedly. Job's children have died, so they must have sinned, so their transgression has caught up with them v4. So, Job, 'if you seek God', lit 'go early' be urgent Job, get to God now and 'plead for mercy, and live pure and upright', then surely, he will get up and do something about your situation, he will restore you v5-6. If you do seek him, get right with him, live for him, then your 'latter days' will eclipse your great day, so they will seem like 'small beginnings' v7. Give this man a matching white suit and handkerchief set.

### Wisdom that is 'earthly'- v8-10

Listen to what our fathers have passed down. 'Inquire, please, of bygone ages, consider what our fathers have searched out' v8. For we are infants in what we know, and our time is brief 'like a shadow' v9. We need to listen to them v10. It is not wrong to do this, but earthly wisdom, no matter how wise, is not the sum wisdom of the universe. At some point we need a wisdom that is 'from above'<sup>2</sup>.

### Proof-texts from plants- v11-19

Two plants help force his principal home. Without water the papyrus wither and die v11-12, so does a person who forgets God, and this brings no hope v13. They need water, it is the only thing to bring life<sup>3</sup>. Job, you need God. To put confidence in anything else is to lean against a spider's web and expect it to hold you up v14. Even the stable things, houses, fall in this principle v15. As papyrus needs water to live, we need God. You are dying Job, so you don't have God; 'seek God and plead with him for mercy' v5. Secondly, a 'lush plant', so strong that it survives the sun, its roots are strong and long, robust enough to break through stone v16-17. Even if it is cut down, 'destroyed', so that 'its place' denies him, because he is so rooted 'out of the soil others will spring' and its joy will be great v18-19. You can have a great 'latter days' Job v7. You have suffered a drastic set back, but if you 'seek God, plead for mercy' v5, you can know joy again. No hope, a dry draught of death, or joy unspeakable and full of glory, you choose Job!

### His sum- v20-22

Behold, God does not reject a blameless man Job v20a, his character, the ancient wisdom, the way the world works; all points to your situation. He does not offer friendship and blessing to 'evil-doers' v20b. What have you done Job? Seek God and plead for mercy, and, if you do, laughter and joy will be in your mouth and friendship and righteousness will occupy your home v21-22. Bildad cannot reconcile an innocent man suffering. But this is the case, Job is 'blameless', the writer and God himself has said so.

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<sup>1</sup> Ash p134

<sup>2</sup> James 3

<sup>3</sup> Psalm 1