

Job 08 - Bildad: God Rewards the Godly

II. Dialogue (Job 3:1–42:6)

(2) First dialogue cycle (Job 4:1–14:22)

(B) Job's exchange with Bildad (Job 8:1–10:22)

(a) Bildad's first speech (8:1-22)

(i) Bildad accuses Job's children of sin (8:1-4)

(ii) Bildad promises Job God's blessing upon repentance (8:5-7)

(iii) Bildad explains that history teaches that sin leads to suffering (8:8-11)

(iv) Ungodliness leads to curses (8:12-19)

(v) Godliness leads to blessing (8:20-22)

Job 8

(B) Job's exchange with Bildad (Job 8:1–10:22)

(a) Bildad's first speech (8:1-22)

(i) Bildad accuses Job's children of sin (8:1-4)

1 Then Bildad the Shuhite responded,

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1 Then in response, Bildad from Shuah said:

1 Then answered Bildad the Shuhite, and said,

2 "How long will you say these things, And the words of your mouth be a mighty wind?

2 "How long will you say these things, And the words of your mouth be a mighty wind?

2 "How long will you keep talking like this? How long will you keep talking like a wind storm?

2 How long wilt thou speak these things? and how long shall the words of thy mouth be like a strong wind?

3 "Does God pervert justice? Or does the Almighty pervert what is right?

3 "Does God pervert justice? Or does the Almighty pervert what is right?

3 Does God pervert justice? Does the Almighty pervert what's right?

3 Doth God pervert judgment? or doth the Almighty pervert justice?

4 "If your sons sinned against Him, Then He turned them over to the power of their wrongdoing.

4 "If your sons sinned against Him, Then He delivered them into the power of their transgression.

4 "If your children sin against him, he'll make them a prisoner¹ of their sins.

4 If thy children have sinned against him, and he have cast them away for their transgression;

(ii) Bildad promises Job God's blessing upon repentance (8:5-7)

5 "If you will search for God And implore the compassion of the Almighty,

5 "If you would seek God And implore the compassion of the Almighty,

5 If you seek God, if you ask the Almighty for mercy,

5 If thou wouldest seek unto God betimes, and make thy supplication to the Almighty;

6 If you are pure and upright, Surely now He will stir Himself for you And restore your righteous estate.

6 If you are pure and upright, Surely now He would rouse Himself for you And restore your righteous estate.

6 if you are clean and upright, surely then, he'll act on your behalf and restore your rightful place.

6 If thou wert pure and upright; surely now he would awake for thee, and make the habitation of thy righteousness prosperous.

7 "Though your beginning was insignificant, Yet your end will increase greatly.

7 "Though your beginning was insignificant, Yet your end will increase greatly.

7 Your beginning may be small, but later years will be very great.

7 Though thy beginning was small, yet thy latter end should greatly increase.

(iii) Bildad explains that history teaches that sin leads to suffering (8:8-11)

8 "Please inquire of past generations, And consider the things searched out by their fathers.

8 "Please inquire of past generations, And consider the things searched out by their fathers.

8 "Inquire of the previous generation, won't you please? Consider what their forefathers searched out.

8 For enquire, I pray thee, of the former age, and prepare thyself to the search of their fathers:

9 "For we are *only* of yesterday and know nothing, Because our days on earth are as a shadow.

9 "For we are *only* of yesterday and know nothing, Because our days on earth are as a shadow.

9 Because we are of yesterday and we know nothing, for our time on earth is only a shadow.

9 (For we are but of yesterday, and know nothing, because our days upon earth are a shadow:)

10 "Will they not teach you *and* tell you, And bring forth words from their minds?

10 "Will they not teach you *and* tell you, And bring forth words from their minds?

10 Won't they instruct you, and tell you, and bring out words from the heart?

10 Shall not they teach thee, and tell thee, and utter words out of their heart?

11 "Can papyrus grow tall without a marsh? Can the rushes grow without water?

11 "Can the papyrus grow up without a marsh? Can the rushes grow without water?

11 "Can papyrus grow where there's no marsh? Can reeds flourish without water?

11 Can the rush grow up without mire? can the flag grow without water?

(iv) Ungodliness leads to curses (8:12-19)

12 "While it is still green *and* not cut down, Yet it withers before any *other* plant.

12 "While it is still green *and* not cut down, Yet it withers before any *other* plant.

12 While they are still green and not yet ready to be harvested, they wither before any plant.

12 Whilst it is yet in his greenness, and not cut down, it withereth before any other herb.

13 "So are the paths of all who forget God; And the hope of the godless will perish,

13 "So are the paths of all who forget God; And the hope of the godless will perish,

13 Such are the paths of everyone who forgets God— the hope of the godless will be destroyed:

13 So are the paths of all that forget God; and the hypocrite's hope shall perish:

14 His confidence is fragile, And his trust is a spider's web.

14 Whose confidence is fragile, And whose trust a spider's web.

14 his confidence is shattered; his trust is in a spider's web.

14 Whose hope shall be cut off, and whose trust shall be a spider's web.

15 "He depends on his house, but it does not stand; He holds on to it, but it does not endure.

15 "He trusts in his house, but it does not stand; He holds fast to it, but it does not endure.

15 He leans against his house, but it won't stand; he grabs hold of it firmly, but it doesn't last.

15 He shall lean upon his house, but it shall not stand: he shall hold it fast, but it shall not endure.

16 "He flourishes before the sun, And his shoots spread out over his garden.

16 "He thrives before the sun, And his shoots spread out over his garden.

16 He is a fresh sapling planted in the sunlight, spreading out its branches over its garden.

16 He is green before the sun, and his branch shooteth forth in his garden.

17 "His roots wrap around a rock pile, He grasps a house of stones.

17 "His roots wrap around a rock pile, He grasps a house of stones.

17 Its roots weave around a pile of stones, seeking to entrench itself among the rocks.

17 His roots are wrapped about the heap, and seeth the place of stones.

18 "If he is removed from his place, Then it will deny him, *saying*, 'I never saw you.'

18 "If he is removed from his place, Then it will deny him, *saying*, 'I never saw you.'

18 If he is uprooted from his place, then it will deny him: 'I never saw you.'

18 If he destroy him from his place, then it shall deny him, saying, I have not seen thee.

19 "Behold, this is the joy of His way; And out of the dust others will spring.

19 "Behold, this is the joy of His way; And out of the dust others will spring.

19 "Indeed, this is the benefit of God's way: from the soil other plants will sprout.

19 Behold, this is the joy of his way, and out of the earth shall others grow

(v) Godliness leads to blessing (8:20-22)

20 "Behold, God will not reject a person of integrity, Nor will He help evildoers.

20 "Lo, God will not reject a man of integrity, Nor will He support the evildoers.

20 Surely God won't reject those who are blameless or hold hands with those who practice evil.

20 Behold, God will not cast away a perfect man, neither will he help the evil doers:

21 "He will yet fill your mouth with laughter, And your lips with joyful shouting.

21 "He will yet fill your mouth with laughter And your lips with shouting.

21 He will soon fill your mouth with laughter, and your lips will shout with joy.

21 Till he fill thy mouth with laughing, and thy lips with rejoicing.

22 "Those who hate you will be clothed with shame, And the tent of the wicked will no longer exist."

22 "Those who hate you will be clothed with shame, And the tent of the wicked will be no longer."

22 Those who hate you will be clothed with shame, and the tent of the wicked will no longer exist.

22 They that hate thee shall be clothed with shame; and the dwelling place of the wicked shall come to nought.

What Bildad says is true and logical, as far as it goes. It is supported by plausible arguments both from the experience of the past and the testimony of Scripture. So what's wrong? It is what is left out that makes it wrong:

1. They answer Job's words without trying to find out what lies behind them. They zero in on what he says without understanding his agony.
2. Their theology is incomplete: there is no understanding that there were aspects of God and dimensions to His Word which they had not yet seen. We, too, are often guilty of judging only on the basis of a rigid theology that focuses on some aspects of truth while ignoring others.
3. They never pray with Job. They never ask God to open their minds and illuminate their understanding so that they can help their friend. The book is full of prayers: but only Job's!

You cannot find much wrong with their arguments. What a lesson for each of us: we need to speak cautiously when we deal with deep hurts and problems of life.