

The First Speech of Bildad the Shuhite | Job 8:1-22

- Verse 1 - **Bildad the Shuhite** - presumably the son/descendant of Shuah, the son of Abraham by Keturah (Gen. 25:1-2). Bildad gives three speeches, each one blaming Job for unrighteousness before God as the cause of his suffering. (Note from Job 2:11).
- Verse 2 - Bildad is "fed up" with Job's "windbag" speech, but shows no compassion, nor does he provide any correct theology.
- Verse 5 - The word **betimes** means *early* or *speedily*. The Hebrew word שָׁרַשׁ [shr] carries the meaning of *breaking forth*, thus the word **betimes**, while archaic, is better than no adverb, as found in NASB and ESV.
- Verse 6 –
 - Verses like this are so quotable...yet wrong.
 - It is easy to see a Bible verse like this, taken out of context, and claim it as truth, shout Amen, and move forward with a faith that is grounded in bad theology.
 - Compare Eliphaz's speech in Job 22:23-30, which gives the same "live right & prosper" doctrine.
 - This is the doctrine of man, not God (just ask John the Baptist, Jeremiah, Paul, etc.)
 - Note that finding an anecdotal Scripture that supports this theology does not actually support the theology. While there are cases where God has promised protection to those who seek Him, it is not universal.
- Verse 7 - This verse would work wonderfully on a plaque, to give to someone starting a business, or a graduation card, etc. --if only it was Biblical truth and not just a Biblical quote!
- Verses 8-10 - One could assume that Bildad is encouraging Job to consult with dead ancestors. This quote would work perfectly in a New Age or animistic home, but is not godly theology.
- Verses 11-19 –
 - Bildad (the hypocrite who did not know God) accuses Job of being a hypocrite and forgetting God.
 - The only accurate understanding of Job's life is found in Job 1:8 and 2:3.
 - Making the accusation, Bildad uses several word pictures to express his thoughts-
 - Vv. 14-16 - The hypocrite is like one **whose trust shall be a spider's web** (that is, such trust will not provide support).
 - Vv. 17-19 - The hypocrite is like a weed that springs up in the garden and soon takes over. When the gardener removes the weed, he rejoices, but **out of the earth shall others grow**.
- Verses 20-22 - Bildad summarizes his theology of blessing for the good man and curse on the **evil doers**, giving ever implication that Job was evil (even if the evil be hidden from his eyes).

Job's Response to Bildad | Job 9:1-10:22

- **Verse 9:2** - Job is either affirming (incorrectly) his friend's assertion (something which we are prone to do) or, rather, he is saying, "*let me tell you of a truth: how do you suppose, Bildad, that I should be right with God?*" He then gives an argument that God is above all and cannot be "put in a box" as Job has done.
- **Verse 9:4** - The Hebrew word translated **prospered** is not a wealth word (see Joshua 1:8 for such a word). Rather, this word is (this is *shalem*, peace is *shalom*), and is specifically being at peace with someone because there are not debts between them. See Job 21:31 and 22:21, where the same word is used.
- **Verses 9:5-10** –
 - Having argued that man is not in God's league, Job now gives a list of God's powerful deeds, including-
 - Moves and overturns mountains (v. 5)
 - Causes earthquakes (v. 6)
 - Can "stop" the sun and seal up the stars (v. 7)
 - Spreads the heavens and walks on the waves (v. 8)
 - Makes the constellations (v. 9)
 - Has **wonders without number** (v. 10).
 - **Concerning the stars and constellations-**
 - Arcturus is the brightest star in the constellation Bootes (actually a *decan* of the constellation Virgo).
 - Bootes is, "The Coming Shepherd."
 - Names of the major stars in Bootes:
 - Arcturus means, "He comes."
 - Nekkar, "the pierced"
 - Alkalurops: The Branch
 - Alkalurops: The Branch
 - Mizar (Izar): "Guarding"
 - Orion - "The Hunter," a decan of Taurus, "the Coming Judge." The Hunter is coming in a victorious return.
 - Pleiades - a cluster of stars in Taurus. The Hebrew *cimah* is "seven stars." See also Amos 5:8. The word Pleiades comes from the Septuagint.
 - Why is this important?
 - Psalm 147:4 tells us that God named the stars.
 - Job 9:9 and other passages gives us the names of some of these stars and their constellations.
 - The key lesson: the stars and constellations have such ancient names (as we know because they are spoken of in Job), that we must recognize there is real meaning to God naming the stars and placed them in such a way as to prepare 12 constellations and 36 decans to display a prophetic truth.