

Message #20**Job 18:1-21**

Job 18 is Bildad's speech #2. At least in Bildad's first speech he gave Job some hope. His message to Job was that if he would just get his life right with God, then all of his circumstances would improve and his story would have a favorable ending (8:5-7).

In this chapter, he doesn't even give Job a chance. His message is that Job is doomed and destined for judgment and there is nothing he can do about it. Both of his speeches were wrong; both were filled with many false assumptions and God would hold Bildad highly accountable for what he would say.

SOMETIMES SATAN WILL USE THOSE CLOSE TO YOU TO VERBALLY FALSELY ASSAULT YOU BY THREATENING THAT YOU ARE DOOMED AND HEADING TO JUDGMENT, AND GOD WILL HOLD THEM HIGHLY ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE FALSE THINGS THEY ARE SAYING TO YOU.

We may recall that Bildad is a Shuhite (8:1), which means he was a descendant of Abraham through Keturah (Gen. 25:1-2). He was related to Abraham and strutted around with all the pomp and aura of being a spiritual giant. He is the kind of guy who wants you to believe he is really spiritual and really knowledgeable of God and His Word, when in all reality, behind the scenes he is not spiritual and he does not know the Word and will of God.

Everything Bildad says is wrong. What he says is wrong. The way he says it is wrong and how he says it is wrong.

Why does God go to all the trouble to keep repeating these conversations? What is the point of all of this? To teach us that this goes on all the time. This is still a huge tactic of Satan. He uses people to shoot off their mouths in an attempt to get us to back away from being faithful to God and His Word.

SEGMENT #1 – Bildad falsely questions Job. 18:1-3

Each one of these questions is designed to be an insult against Job. Each one of these questions is designed to exalt and excuse the three agents of Satan who are verbally attacking Job.

Question #1 - How long are you going to hunt for words? 18:2a

The word "hunt" is a Hebrew word that literally means "snare" (Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 736). Bildad is asking Job, "How long are you going to use words to try and ensnare us or trap us?"

What a ludicrous farce this is. These three are using their words to insult and try and trap Job and they accuse Job of doing exactly what they are doing. These people were blinded to their own guilt. They were accusing Job of that which they themselves are guilty.

Question #2 - When will you show understanding and let us talk? **18:2b**

What Bildad means here is when will you stop responding and just hear what we have to say? In other words, when are you going to sit there like a bump on a log and let us say whatever we want about you? What Bildad is actually saying here is that Job should just shut his mouth and let them babble. He is saying that Job should just quiet down because he doesn't have any understanding, so he should just quiet down and let them speak and verbally ramble. The answer to the question of how long before Job would concede to their point is **NEVER!**

Question #3 - Why do you regard us as stupid beasts? **18:3**

This is so hypocritical. Bildad is basically saying, Job you are hurting our feelings by what you say. Bildad could care less what they are saying about Job, but he is so concerned what Job thinks about them. People who don't know what they are talking about are very self-centered. They can say whatever they want about you, but if you respond in any way, they act as though you are the one at fault.

He asks Job, why do you regard us as stupid beasts? Why Job, do you consider us to be a bunch of dumb animals. The answer is because that is exactly what they are. They aren't dumb animals, they are dumb humans. They were talking like stupid beasts, not like men of God and not like friends of Job.

SEGMENT #2 – Bildad mocks Job. **18:4**

Job said God was allowing an adversary to tear him to shreds (16:9) because God was angry for some reason. Bildad turns it around here and mocks Job. He tells Job that he is responsible for tearing himself apart.

The last part of **verse 4** means Job is wrong to assume that his sufferings should be lifted when the whole world operates on a system that when you sin, you pay. God would not remove this crushing rock just for Job.

SEGMENT #3 – Bildad's false verbal attacks against Job. **18:5-11**

Bildad believed that Job was weak in his understanding of biblical doctrine and Divine retribution, so he decides to give Job a little lecture on the subject. The whole point of this is to attack Job:

Verbal Attack #1 - Job is wicked and his light is going out. **18:5-6**

Wicked people are eventually dimmed out of the picture. Their flame must be extinguished. Bildad is saying that Job was on his way down. The light was fading. All blessings were fading out and he was no longer a useful reflection of God's grace and glory.

Here is the irony—Job’s light in heaven was shining bright because he had not cursed God. Job was not diminishing in God’s sight, these three were. They were so diminishing that God would not even accept their worship anymore.

Verbal Attack #2 - Job’s life has been brought to a standstill because of his own schemes.
18:7

Job was skipping through life, but because of his wickedness, God has brought his life to a slow death-type of existence. Bildad is saying that God has done this because of Job’s own evil schemes.

Again the reality of the situation is that Satan had done that, God hadn’t done it.

Verbal Attack #3 - Job has trapped himself by his own wicked ways. **18:8-10**

The idea is that Job was trying to trap others, but his wickedness came to an end when he trapped himself. While he had been plotting evil against others, he trapped himself.

Wicked people are surrounded by traps that can bring a person down and it is just a matter of time until they will be brought down and Bildad just assumes that was what was happening to Job.

Verbal Attack #4 - Job is surrounded by things that terrify him. **18:11**

Job was surrounded by things that frightened him every moment of every day and these three “friends” were part of his terrifying problem.

SEGMENT #4 – Bildad’s hope-killing diagnosis of Job. **18:12-16**

Bildad takes it upon himself to diagnose Job’s situation in a way that would leave him hopeless:

Diagnosis #1 - Job has no more strength. **18:12a**

Job himself had said that about himself, he didn’t need Bildad repeating the same thing.

Diagnosis #2 - Job is a partner to calamity. **18:12b**

Job was in a partnership with calamity that was sent by God. The word “calamity” refers to destruction and ruin sent by God to the wicked.

Diagnosis #3 - Job has a skin disease. **18:13a**

Job did not need Bildad reminding him of this, he lived with it every day.

Diagnosis #4 - Job has a body that is dying . **18:13b**

Bidad says that Job is in the process of dying. The fact is we all are.

Diagnosis #5 - Job has no security even in his own home . **18:14-15**

This is an attack against Job's home and family. Job had lost his possessions, his servants and his family and Bildad is reminding Job of that reality.

Diagnosis #6 - Job has no support from below or above . **18:16**

Bidad says that Job is being cut off from any relationship with God. There was no one to help him below or above. Bildad is dead wrong. Job had God on his side.

Notice there is no hint that this could be a vicious attack of Satan. All of these guys just assume that Job is the problem.

SEGMENT #5 – Bildad's false predictions concerning Job. **18:17-21**

There are five false predictions Bildad makes of Job:

Prediction #1 - There would be no memory of Job. **18:17**

What an interesting prediction Bildad makes here. By the way, what book of the Bible are we studying? Hollywood has made movies about Job; books have been written about Job and the theme of the patience of Job is known all over the world. Job is one of the most remembered men of God to ever live on this earth.

Prediction #2 - Job would be chased out of this world . **18:18**

Bidad's prediction is that God would drive Job right out of this world because of his wickedness.

Prediction #3 - Job would have no offspring or family survivor . **18:19**

Bidad predicts that Job's life will end without any survivor from his family line. The fact is Job would end up with a blessed family line.

Prediction #4 - All people would be horrified at the thought of Job. **18:20**

We are horrified not by the thought of Job, but at the thought of what these three are saying to Job. Here is how foolish Bildad is. In verse 17, he predicts that no one will remember Job's name and in verse 20 he predicts people will remember his name and be appalled by it.

This is satanic speech. It is double talking. You cannot pin it down. It traps itself. Satanic people make up something and then something else which is contradictory.

Prediction #5 - This would be the outcome of Job because he does not know God. **18:21**

The fact is Job was the only one who was right with God.

I love the words of Dr. Samuel Cox: “Was not the lamp of Job put out? Were not his strong strides, his easy and assured steps, narrowed and fettered to the mere circle of the mezbele? Did he not move as amid nets and toils, finding no escape? Was he not perplexed and terrified by the miseries which tore and rent his heart, scared with dreams, sickened with misgivings and doubts? Had not his children been stricken? Was it because he knew not God, or had put Him from his thoughts, that he had become the contempt of the tribes? Has posterity forgotten him or do we remember him only with hatred and amazement? So far from being set forth as a warning against bold impiety, he is set before us as an example of suffering patience. So far from gloating over his ruin, we rejoice in his deliverance” (Cox, p. 229).

Bildad was all wrong. His speech against Job was worthless. It depressed Job and it made Bildad accountable to God.

PRACTICAL LESSONS:

1. People who don't know what they are talking about talk like they do.
2. People who don't know God's will talk to you like they do know God's will.
3. People who are being moved by Satan will accuse you of the very things of which they are guilty.
4. Before we speak to someone about their situation, we had better have all of the facts.
5. Those who say untrue things against God's faithful servants will eventually reap from God what they have sown.