

Message #27**Job 25:1-6**

Job 25 is the shortest chapter in the book of Job. It is the final speech of Bildad. By virtue of the fact that this final speech is so short, and by virtue of the fact that Zophar doesn't even bother to give a final speech, we learn that this group had finally run out of fuel. They were out of gas. After all their allegations, after all their insinuations, and after all their criticisms and condemnations, they were finally out of steam. Dr. Samuel Cox believes Bildad finally realized there was nothing he could say to the facts that had been offered by Job (p. 321). These guys had taken their best verbal shot at Job and now they were left with egg all over their faces with nothing more to say. God was shutting their mouths!

WHEN ONE WHO IS FAITHFUL TO GOD IS BEING FALSELY ACCUSED, IF HE WILL STICK TO HIS POSITION OF INNOCENCE AND GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY, EVENTUALLY THOSE WHO ARE ACCUSING WILL RUN OUT OF ARGUMENTS AND THEIR MOUTHS WILL BE CLOSED.

These guys had been rambling ever since Job chapter 4. They had been insulting and accusing Job for over twenty chapters of this book. But now, finally, their mouths would be silenced and this final speech of Bildad is the last of their nonsense.

Now this final speech says nothing new or significant. Here is a person basically saying nothing! It is interesting that these guys allege that Job won't listen to them, so our question would be, "why do you keep talking?" If Job won't listen, why don't you just quietly go away? Bildad doesn't have any more arguments to give to Job, but he wants to give one final lecture.

There are primarily two central themes in this section:

THEME #1 – The greatness of God. **25:1-3**

There is much that is true in these verses about God, but the speech means nothing to Job. Job already stood in total awe of God's sovereign power and majesty.

Point #1 - God has sovereign dominion and awe. **25:2a**

There are many great powers and rulers in the universe, forces that are seen and those that are not seen and all of them get their power from God. Compared to God they are nothing and they should stand in total awe of God.

That word "dominion" is one that is tricky in Hebrew. The word literally means to "make like" or to "assimilate." The sense of it seems to be this; God is the One who assimilates a decision and rules or orders that which happens. God is the one who determines what will or will not happen; He has dominion (Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 517). He is sovereign.

The word “awe” is one that means to tremble or to be in trepidation. It is the idea of fearing something to the point of trembling (*Ibid.*, p. 670). By combining these two ideas, Bildad is painting a high and lofty perspective of God—He is the one ruling and we should fear Him.

There is no question that God’s people should fear God. That point is brought out in the O.T. and the N.T. There is an interesting prediction made by Jeremiah in which God will eventually give Israel her land and forgive all her sin and when God has done all of these good things, Israel will “fear and tremble” (Jer. 33:9).

This is absolutely true; God is a God who is sovereign and we should fear Him. It is a solid grasp of things. Of course the problem here is that he is talking to the man who fears God at the greatest level. This isn’t just our opinion; this is what God said about Job (1:8-9; 2:3).

This is the equivalent of preaching a salvation message to people who are already saved. They don’t need that specific message. One person told me one time they were in a church and all of the people at the service were believers and the minister was begging people to come to the front to trust Christ. The message made no sense.

Bildad sounds good here in his perspective of God, but he is preaching to the wrong guy. Job was a man who far outshined him when it came to grasping truth about God.

As Dr. Anderson said, “Job has no quarrel with such assertions” (p. 215). The problem is the assertions don’t mean anything to Job and certainly don’t minister to him in any way.

Point #2 - God establishes peace in His heights. **25:2b**

Bildad’s point is in the high heavenlies all is tranquil because God maintains this celestial tranquility. It is absolutely true that God maintains the stellar universe.

It is interesting that Apollo 11 landed on the moon and put a plaque on what they called the “Sea of Tranquility.” The plaque reads: “We come in peace for all mankind.” Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin found things very peaceful and tranquil on the moon because no humans have been there to disturb it.

It would appear that Bildad is saying to Job, since God sovereignly controls all of the tranquility that exists in heaven, so also He can work out His perfect will on earth in a person’s life and if Job was right with God, things would be peaceful and tranquil for him.

God does have the power to make things tranquil, but the false assumption is things aren’t tranquil in Job’s life because he is out of step with God. Nothing could be further from the truth. Things weren’t tranquil in Job’s life because he was under an attack of Satan.

It is interesting that when God does finally step in, the one who needs to be brought into a tranquil relationship with Him is not Job, but Bildad, Zophar and Eliphaz. They are the ones who are not in a peaceful relationship with God. Even though they talk so piously about God, they are the ones totally and completely out of fellowship with God. **Sometimes those who do the most talking are the least spiritual.**

Point #3 - God is unlimited in His number of allies. **25:3a**

God controls a massive heavenly army. God has at his disposal an unlimited number of angels who are His army in heaven. That angelic army “does according to His will” (Dan. 4:35). No one can stop or thwart God’s sovereign plan and he has an innumerable angelic force capable of carrying out that plan.

The world stands in awe of a man like Alexander the Great. He was the Macedonian King who conquered the Persian Empire. Alexander the Great had so many allies that when people saw him pass they said it looked like a hurricane. He commanded so many soldiers, including mercenary armies, that he became a legend. He is nothing compared to God.

All forces in this universe, seen and unseen, astrophysical and cosmological, are at God’s command. God is sovereign controller of everything, including Satan and his forces. They can only do what God permits them to do, when He permits them to do it.

We have certainly seen this in the book of Job. There is no limit to what God can do. He can literally use an army to do whatever He wants done or He can cause a catastrophe. He can use Holy angels and evil angels. He sets parameters for what evil angels are capable of doing.

Point #4 - God shines His light on everything and everyone. **25:3b**

This is a reference to heavenly lights such as the sun, moon and stars. God’s light beams forth a message of His sovereignty every day.

Both humans and angels see the light of God rise every day. People who scoff at the idea of God need to ask themselves from whom or from what does light originate? How is it that light comes and goes about every twelve hours? Who is it that turns on the lights of day and turns on the lights of the night? It is the Sovereign God of the Bible.

Now Bildad is implying that things are dark in Job’s world, but God can turn on the lights and if Job will repent, God will shine His light of blessing on Job again.

The problem with this little lecture is that Job is innocent and doesn’t need to repent and Job already knows this about God.

Bildad’s little lecture of theology is meaningless to Job because it is irrelevant to what he is experiencing (i.e. 26:2).

THEME #2 – The minuteness of man. **25:4-6**

In these verses, Bildad is intent upon establishing how little man is where compared to God and more than likely the reason he does this is to put Job down so he will feel worse about himself than he already does.

Way #1 - Bildad asks questions . **25:4**

Here is “the” big question of life—how is it possible for any sinful human, born of a woman, to be right with the Holy God? The problem here is not with the question, it is the timing of the question. Furthermore, this is a question Bildad and his friends should have also asked themselves.

Dr. J. Vernon McGee says this is a good question and this is the right question, but Bildad doesn't have the right answer to the question. Bildad should have been asking this question at the beginning of these discussions rather than at the end. The truth is no man is right with God in and of himself.

We have a wonderful answer to this question. Man can be just with God by faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 3:26). Man cannot, by his works, religion, or morality, be made right with God, but he can by faith in Jesus Christ. When one believes on Christ, that sinner, born of a woman, is declared to be a child of God forever.

Way #2 - Bildad makes assertions . **25:5**

Bildad asserts that if the heavenly bodies like the moon and stars are not as bright as God, then how much less is earthly man, who is nothing but a maggot and a worm.

His assertion here is compared to other creative things of God; man is a maggot and worm. John Hartley said that by using these terms Bildad is symbolizing that man is a wretched, low person who has a smell of death to him (*The Book of Job*, p. 357).

Of course Bildad overlooks a key biblical point; man has been created in the image of God. Dr. Ray Stedman said God never treats a man like a worm, He treats him like a valuable individual (*Job*, p. 104).

It is absolutely true that when it comes to our righteousness compared to God's righteousness, it is filthy rags. Isaac Watts, in his famous hymn, At the Cross, said that Jesus Christ the Sovereign God shed His blood “for such a worm as I.”

In that context it is true that we are nothing more than a filthy maggot or worm, works wise. One scholar used to say to people who said we evolved from some worm, that we are worms.

We crawl around on the earth in the filth and depravity of the world and we are all sinners. In order to be saved, man must admit this point, but man is no maggot or worm. Jesus Christ did not come into the world to die for maggots and worms; He came to die for sinful human beings and by believing in Him and relying upon God's grace, any sinner may become righteous in the sight of God.

Closing thoughts

1. God is great and majestic.
2. Man is nothing compared to God.
3. God will eventually close the mouths of those who verbally attack the righteous.
4. There is only one way we may be just in the sight of God and that is by faith to believe in Jesus Christ and look "at the cross."