

Side Notes

Chapter 8 is the speech by the second of Job's three friends. Eliphaz has already attempted to reprove Job and not Bildad makes his first attempt.

In the book of Job there are three rounds of these speeches.

² Bildad starts his speech with rudeness. Though he was a friend, there is no kindness at first. Sometimes people false beliefs can separate friends.

⁴ Bildad is arrogant and mean to accuse his dead children and claim their brought their death upon themselves.

³⁻⁶ Bildad's thesis is the same as that of his friends – you have sinned against God, but if you will confess and repent, God will reward you.

⁸ Bildad appeals to the wisdom of the ages to try to establish his point. It is the old argument of "that is what we have always believed."

¹¹⁻¹⁵ Here is a very poetic description of those who do not trust God. This does not mean that Job is wrong, but its truth is beautifully said.

¹⁸⁻²⁰ Bildad is saying that Job has been torn from God's protection.

²¹⁻²² Bildad holds out hope for a bright future for Job.

Job 8

Bildad's Speech to Job

The Thesis: God Punishes Sinners (1-7)

¹ Then Bildad the Shuhite replied:

² "How long will you say such things? Your words are a blustering wind.

³ Does God pervert justice? Does the Almighty pervert what is right? ⁴ When your children sinned against him, he gave them over to the penalty of their sin. ⁵ But if you will look to God and plead with the Almighty, ⁶ if you are pure and upright, even now he will rouse himself on your behalf and restore you to your rightful place.

⁷ Your beginnings will seem humble, so prosperous will your future be.

Proof of the Thesis (8-10)

⁸ "Ask the former generations and find out what their fathers learned, ⁹ for we were born only yesterday and know nothing, and our days on earth are but a shadow. ¹⁰ Will they not instruct you and tell you? Will they not bring forth words from their understanding?"

God's Dealing with Wicked and Righteous (11-22)

¹¹ Can papyrus grow tall where there is no marsh? Can reeds thrive without water? ¹² While still growing and uncut, they wither more quickly than grass. ¹³ Such is the destiny of all who forget God; so perishes the hope of the godless. ¹⁴ What he trusts in is fragile; what he relies on is a spider's web. ¹⁵ He leans on his web, but it gives way; he clings to it, but it does not hold.

¹⁶ He is like a well-watered plant in the sunshine, spreading its shoots over the garden; ¹⁷ it entwines its roots around a pile of rocks and looks for a place among the stones. ¹⁸ But when it is torn from its spot, that place disowns it and says, 'I never saw you.' ¹⁹ Surely its life withers away, and from the soil other plants grow.

²⁰ "Surely God does not reject a blameless man or strengthen the hands of evildoers. ²¹ He will yet fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with shouts of joy. ²² Your enemies will be clothed in shame, and the tents of the wicked will be no more."