

Job 8-11

Why Bad Things Happen To God's People

God is not silent during suffering. God has given us His Word to comfort us.

Go to God's Word to get and maintain perspective in our trials.

God's perceived silence in our trials is not without purpose. God appears silent so we do not miss the purpose of the trial to begin with. God is teaching Job how to walk by faith and not by sight.

Also, we can't forget that even if God were to speak to us and explain the trial that would undermine the purpose the trial was serving in our lives to begin with.

There is nothing wrong with asking God why, just don't expect an answer.

Answers to our why questions are substitutions

for trust.

Can you imagine knowing everything in advance. Think of Peter and Jesus conversation with him about his (Peter's death)

Jobs friends believe that all suffering and disease is caused by the persons sins.

We have not progressed very far from the position Job's friends take.

Any time someone trusts us enough to bear their heart to us we need to treat that experience as a holy thing. There is a great little book titled, "Why Am I Afraid To Tell You Who I Am?" And the answer is if I tell you who I am and you reject me, what do I have left?

The silence of God during our trial is to train us.

## **Job 8**

**1 Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and**

**said:**

**2 "How long will you speak these things,  
And the words of your mouth be like a  
strong wind?"**

Bildad accuses Job of being full of hot air.

Do you think Job is feeling like slugging Bildad?

Wow... Job is wanting to die and Bildad says  
can you just cut to the point. Quit the long  
answers!

**3 Does God subvert judgment? Or does the  
Almighty pervert justice?**

Bildad accuses Job of challenging God's  
justice.

**4 If your sons have sinned against Him, He  
has cast them away for their transgression.**

Eliphaz had said Job's kids died because of  
Job's sin

Bildad tells Job, not only are you in sin, but your

kids are dead because of they sinned.  
Maybe Bildad thinks he's comforting Job by his statements.

**5 If you would earnestly seek God And  
make your supplication to the Almighty,  
6 If you were pure and upright, Surely now  
He would awake for you, And prosper your  
rightful dwelling place.**

Bildad says to Job, "If you would get right, pray and repent, God would bless you."

"But since you are suffering that indicates that you haven't and you're in a backslidden state."

Prosperity is based on our faith not on God's grace. If we would just believe we'd receive!

**7 Though your beginning was small, Yet  
your latter end would increase abundantly.**

Job your life could have been blessed had you lived a righteous life.

**8 "For inquire, please, of the former age,  
And consider the things discovered by their  
fathers;**

**9 For we were born yesterday, and know  
nothing, Because our days on earth are a  
shadow.**

**10 Will they not teach you and tell you, And  
utter words from their heart?**

“Don’t just take my word for it,” Bildad says.  
“History speaks for itself.” Listen to the fathers  
that have died and gone on before us, the  
wisdom of men who are smarter than us. If you  
are not doing well in life, don’t blame God.

This isn’t true...

**11 "Can the papyrus grow up without a  
marsh? Can the reeds flourish without  
water?**

**12 While it is yet green and not cut down, It  
withers before any other plant.**

Bildad tells Job, “don’t just listen to the  
instruction of the fathers, but learn the lessons

of nature too. The reed can pop up and the grass can grow, but if the reed doesn't have mud and the grass doesn't have water, they'll fade away in the heat of the sun. If something dries up, it's because it's out of touch with the source of water.

In other words, there's something wrong with the root system. His conclusion was there was something wrong with Job's root system.

(Maybe Jesus had this in mind when He said to get the log out of our own eye... a dead log that is not being nourished by the root)

**13 So are the paths of all who forget God;  
And the hope of the hypocrite shall perish,**

Bildad is saying, "You prospered for a season, Job. You once were the wealthiest man in all the east. You appeared to have it all together, but now, in the end, the truth has come out. Your roots are now exposed and your dried up and are not in touch with a water source."

**14 Whose confidence shall be cut off, And whose trust is a spider's web.**

**15 He leans on his house, but it does not stand. He holds it fast, but it does not endure.**

Bildad warns Job, “If you lean against a spider web, you’re making a big mistake. It can’t support you. So, too, your house was due to collapse because it had no firm foundation,”

Jesus said something similar... he who builds his house upon the sand will suffer total ruin but he who builds his house upon the Rock will stand against the rain and the winds!

**16 He grows green in the sun, And his branches spread out in his garden.**

**17 His roots wrap around the rock heap, And look for a place in the stones.**

**18 If he is destroyed from his place, Then it will deny him, saying, 'I have not seen you.'**

**19 "Behold, this is the joy of His way, And out of the earth others will grow.**

Bildad's third illustration from nature concerns a plant that finds a fertile place among the stones and it grows. But when it's removed, it's not missed. Bildad's belief is Job was in the process of being uprooted and that others will take his place. This is the outcome of hypocrisy Bildad is saying.

Solomon says something similar himself,

**20 Behold, God will not cast away the blameless, Nor will He uphold the evildoers.**

**21 He will yet fill your mouth with laughing, And your lips with rejoicing.**

**22 Those who hate you will be clothed with shame, And the dwelling place of the wicked will come to nothing."**

Bildad says to Job, "If you get right with God, if you will repent and confess your sin and stop claiming to be innocent, God can bless you again,"

In chapter 9 Job will object to Bildad's speech. "Job, there's sin in your life. That's why these

things have come upon you,” Eliphaz said. “And you continue to sin by denying that you are in sin,” Bildad added. “God is holy. He judges rightly. Therefore, there must be some sin your life,” Eliphaz said. “How dare you challenge God’s justice?” Bildad asked. Eliphaz and Bildad no doubt thought they were doing God a favor by standing up for Him.

They were right that God is just.

But they were dead wrong in assuming God’s justice was the only issue at play, for there was something going on of which neither they nor Job was aware.

## **Job 9**

Chapter 9 is a difficult chapter to understand. To better understand it you need to skip down to verse 19, **19 If it is a matter of strength, indeed He is strong; And if of justice, who will appoint my day in court?**

Job is questioning everything he thought was true. He's trying to wrap his mind around all that has happened to him and on top of that he's in a debate with his three friends...

**1 Then Job answered and said:**

**2 "Truly I know it is so, But how can a man be righteous before God?"**

Job agrees in principle that the righteous are blessed and the wicked are cursed. But he doesn't believe that is the case with his circumstances.

Job says he knows that God is just. Job is trying to get an audience with God so he can plead his case.

Righteous means "innocent" here. Job is agreeing that God is just and that whatever a man sows that to he shall reap but he doesn't agree that his circumstances warrant the judgment of God upon his life.

Job knows he is innocent of secret sin in his life

and now Job is trying to figure out a way to get God to testify for Job, to vouch for Job's character.

**3 If one wished to contend with Him, He could not answer Him one time out of a thousand.**

Contend is a legal term... like a cross examination by an attorney.

Who could get a confession out of God? No one is a match for God's wisdom and strength. Man couldn't even answer 1 out of a 1000 questions God would ask if cross examined.

Job is just thinking out loud. He knows this is ridiculous but he's in pain and he's just trying to make sense of what he cant make sense.

**4 God is wise in heart and mighty in strength. Who has hardened himself against Him and prospered?**

Job is pointing out that no one has ever

opposed God with any success. So how can Job present his case?

**5 He removes the mountains, and they do not know When He overturns them in His anger;**

**6 He shakes the earth out of its place, And its pillars tremble;**

**7 He commands the sun, and it does not rise; He seals off the stars;**

**8 He alone spreads out the heavens, And treads on the waves of the sea;**

**9 He made the Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades, And the chambers of the south;**  
(the universe and the heavens)

Job is pointing out that God is invincible!

**10 He does great things past finding out, Yes, wonders without number.**

Job goes on to say God is incomprehensible and the book of Deuteronomy affirms that truth when it says in Deuteronomy 29:29, **“The secret things belong to the LORD our God,**

**but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.”**

**11 If He goes by me, I do not see Him; If He moves past, I do not perceive Him; (How can you corner God if you don't even know when He walks past)**

**12 If He takes away, who can hinder Him? Who can say to Him, 'What are You doing?'**

**13 God will not withdraw His anger, The allies of the proud lie prostrate beneath Him.**

**14 "How then can I answer Him, And choose my words to reason with Him?**

Even if I could get God to court how could I answer God's cross examination?

**15 For though I were righteous, I could not answer Him; I would beg mercy of my Judge.**

I would have to rely on mercy not justice...

**16 If I called and He answered me, I would**

**not believe that He was listening to my voice.**

**17 For He crushes me with a tempest, And multiplies my wounds without cause.**

This isn't true but Job believes it is... He's emotional

**18 He will not allow me to catch my breath, But fills me with bitterness.**

This isn't true...

**19 If it is a matter of strength, indeed He is strong; And if of justice, who will appoint my day in court?**

**20 Though I were righteous, my own mouth would condemn me; Though I were blameless, it would prove me perverse.**

Job is dreaming about getting God into court. He wants to have an exchange with God but he is afraid his words would just come back to haunt him.

**21 "I am blameless, yet I do not know myself; I despise my life.**

Job doesn't know of any secret sin in his life...

**22 It is all one thing; Therefore I say, 'He destroys the blameless and the wicked.'**

**23 If the scourge slays suddenly, He laughs at the plight of the innocent.**

What we feel doesn't make it true. What Job feels here is real but it's not true.

**24 The earth is given into the hand of the wicked. He covers the faces of its judges. If it is not He, who else could it be?**

You would think God would run the world in a way that God would reward the righteous immediately and judge the wicked immediately as well. Not all blessings and judgments don't all come in this life.

The righteous are not always blessed in this life. Christians do suffer because they are

righteous.

Righteousness is a threat to evil.

Jesus is our example as we know He suffered for righteousness sake though He was completely innocent.

One day God will judge the world righteously. Today isn't that day.

Job is saying he can disprove their argument that only the wicked suffer and the righteous always prosper. He is considering his own life.

**25 "Now my days are swifter than a runner;  
They flee away, they see no good.**

Where does time go? It flies by!

**26 They pass by like swift ships, Like an eagle swooping on its prey.**

**27 If I say, 'I will forget my complaint, I will put off my sad face and wear a smile,'**

**28 I am afraid of all my sufferings; I know that You (God) will not hold me innocent.**

**29 If I am condemned, Why then do I labor in vain?**

**30 If I wash myself with snow water, And cleanse my hands with soap,**

**31 Yet You will plunge me into the pit, And my own clothes will abhor me.**

What Job is saying is not true about God but he's believed what other people have said about God.

Job is saying If he could get a hearing with God and did it all the right way, showered, shaved and wearing a suit and tie that it would make no difference as God is against him.

Sadly Job has listened to the counsel of the wrong people and he has bought into their lies.

Job is accusing God and coming against God based upon what other people have said about God who don't even know God.

**32 "For He is not a man, as I am, That I may answer Him, And that we should go to court**

**together.**

God's infinite and Job is finite he's declaring.

**33 Nor is there any mediator between us,  
Who may lay his hand on us both.**

**34 Let Him take His rod away from me, And  
do not let dread of Him terrify me.**

**35 Then I would speak and not fear Him,  
But it is not so with me.**

Job wants a mediator in a court room setting to reason with God and Job knows the gulf between him and God is too great so Job is looking for someone to safely bring God and Job together where Job can share his story and get an explanation.

A mediator brings two parties together to settle a case. One who bridges the gap between two parties.

We have what Job wants! We have such an advantage. We have Jesus!

**1 Timothy 2:5-6, “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time”**

**1 Peter 3:18, “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,”**

Job has no idea of what you and I enjoy because of Jesus. We have access to God. We have a privilege even in the midst of our trials to know God is working all things together for good. What a revelation we have because of Jesus. “If you have seen Me you have seen the Father” for “the Father and I are one”.

Imagine the struggle of Job. We see dimly darkly but job was in pitch black. He knew of God though creation, as Creator and Job knew God was worthy of praise but Job had no idea of how personal God is. We know the love of God in Christ Jesus!

Job is all over the place in his pain.