

A Study of the Book of Job: When Bad Things Happen to God's People

Lesson 7: Bildad Speaks and Job's Reply (Chapters 8-10)

First Cycle

Eliphaz (ch. 4-5)	→	Job (ch. 6-7)
Bildad (ch. 8)	→	Job (ch. 9-10)
Zophar (ch. 11)	→	Job (ch. 12-14)

8:1-22

V. 7, 21: Ironically Bildad ends up being correct that in the close of his life Job would have even more than in the beginning (cf. 42:10ff), yet how does he speak untruth here?

- V. 8-10: Where does Bildad seek to get his answer to the problem of pain?
- V. 12-14: What is Bildad insinuating with this illustration?

9:1-13

- V. 2: How does Job undercut Bildad's argument? What is Job asking him to consider
- V. 13: "Rahab" = mythical sea monster, often referring to Egypt, one of the earliest post-Flood empires (cf. Isaiah 30:7)
- Note the breathtaking illustrations of God's power that Job enumerates. Yet despite his great strength what else is true of the LORD (v. 11-12)

9:14-20

- What problems does Job note about trying to prove (works-based) innocence before God? What is the only possible alternative?

9:21-31

- V. 22-24: As we've seen from chapters 1-2, God certainly allows these things to happen, as even evil us under his reign, but in what way is Job starting to go too far (the same sentiments are echoed in 10:3, 13-14)?

- V. 27: What fallacy is exposed in this verse?
- V. 30-31: Job insists there is no way he or anyone else can be found innocent before God on their own.

9:32-35

- Job returns to his earlier premise: that of mercy being the only option. In order for that to happen what does he insist is needed? How did Jesus fulfill these requirements?

10:1-7

- Speaking out of his pain, Job maintains his innocence before God (v. 2, 7), yet wants to know what he's done or what God is looking for through this suffering.

10:8-22

One of the most picturesque descriptions of the mystery of life's beginning and God's personal and direct involvement in it. Note the use of "you" and "me" (cf. also Psalm 139:13ff). How does Job's stressed and sinful mind twist this blessing into a cause for complaint?

- V. 18-22: Job reverts to his previous despair expressed in Chapter 3.