

Handout- Job Chapter 18

Bildad offers his second speech which is characterized by an argument from a closed system, reminiscent of the modern world view

- Bildad has heard Job claim that he is an exception to the divine retribution principle
- Bildad in this chapter contradicts the idea that Job represents an exception

Job 18:1–4

- Verse 2 seems to say that Bildad is accusing Job of having difficulty finding words to make his case

Q: Is this an accurate accusation? Is Job somehow having difficulty expressing himself?

Actual meaning of “hunt for words” is “to set a snare”

- **Verse 3**
 - Bildad is asking why Job is trying to snare his friends
 - Bildad assumes that Job thinks that he and the other friends are stupid
 - Bildad has recognized that Job is setting himself up as an exception to the usual rules
 - Bildad is offended and asserts that Job is not an exception and if the friends are like animals, then so is Job
- **Verse 4**
 - Bildad asserts that Job is tearing himself in his anger
 - In Job 16:9, Job indicated that it was God who had hunted Job down
 - Bildad contradicts this says that Job is the cause of his own suffering
 - The word for “tear” in this verse is something that animals do, not humans
 - Bildad asserts that Job is an animal just like the friends, and is NOT an exception to the rules
 - Bildad also asserts that Job is part of the closed system, and that the universe does NOT revolve around Job

Q: Is Bildad right or wrong that the world does not revolve around Job and that Job’s situation does not change or alter the world?

Job 18:5–7

Q: Consider **verse 6**. Given that light in a tent would be coming from a candle or an oil lamp, why is Bildad suggesting that the light will go out?

- Verses 5 and 7: just as inevitably as a candle will eventually burn out, so will the life of a wicked man ultimately end.

Q: What is Bildad referring to in verse 7 by saying that the “vigorous stride is shortened”?

Job 18:8–10

- In verse 2 Bildad indicated that Job was setting a snare for his friends
- Bildad asserts that it is the wicked man who sets snares and once setting them, he finds himself trapped in his own snare
- In Bildad's mind, this is the proof that Job is in fact a wicked man

Q: How can one who sets a trap wind up falling into his own trap?

Job 18:11–19

- Bildad says that the results of wickedness are terrors, loss of strength, and calamity
- “skin is devoured by disease” -exactly the condition of Job
- “king of terrors” -the underworld, the afterlife where he will reside in darkness
- The key point of verse 16 is the permanence of this condition
- Verses 17 and 19 speak to the ramifications of his wickedness on future generations

Job 18:20–21

- The chapter concludes with the impact the life of a wicked man has on everyone else
- Everyone will think of you with horror if reminded of your existence

In this chapter Bildad describes an unbreakable chain reaction. Wickedness leads in succession to all these terrible outcomes and once death occurs, the whole process is irreversible. Bildad, as the scientist espousing a closed system, can see no way out of this death spiral, and his conclusion is that Job is an example of this process being worked out before his eyes.

Q: Is Bildad right?

Redemption and Regeneration

- Psalm 49:7–8
- Psalm 130:6–8
- 1 Corinthians 1:30–31
- Ephesians 1:3–8
- Colossians 1:13–14
- Hebrews 9:11–12
- Titus 3:3–7