

Bildad's Graceless Religion (Job 8)

I. Bildad claims Job is Speaking Ignorantly (1-2)

1. He chastises him for speaking falsely
2. He judges Job's words a nothing but hot air

II. Bildad Asserts God Always Acts in Fairness (3-7)

1. God Brings Suffering Only Upon the Wicked (3-4)
 - a. God does not pervert Justice (3)
 - b. God has judged Job's children Fairly (4)
 - i. Bildad assumes Job's sons were punished for their sin
 - ii. Bildad has no room for the fact that Job sacrificed for his children's sins (Job 1:5)
2. God Brought Suffering upon Job as Punishment (5-7)
 - a. God would suspend Job's suffering if Job would do good (5-6)
 - i. He counsels Job to seek God and implore for compassion (5)
 - ii. If Job is pure and upright God will listen
 - iii. If Job is righteous God will restore Job's estate
 - b. God will bless Job greatly if Job would do righteously (7)

III. Bildad Makes His Case (8-19)

1. Bildad Appeals to Tradition (8-10)
 - a. Bildad bases his assertion on past tradition (8)
 - i. "inquire of past generations"
 - ii. "consider the things searched out by their fathers"
 - b. Bildad encourages Job to learn from tradition (9-10)
 - i. He asserts that Job is too young to know
 - ii. He asserts that the tradition of men knows better
2. Bildad Proves His Case by an Analogy of Two Plants (11-19)
 - a. The Impoverished Plant (11-15)
 - i. Those who forget God wither in punishment like plants without water (11-13)
 - Plants can't grow without water
 - Though they are green they wither
 - so are those who forget God
 - People who sin against God wither in punishment
 - ii. Those who forget God trust in failing things that cannot hold (14-15)
 - They put confidence in fragile things like spiders web
 - They put trust in possessions that cannot endure
 - b. The Nourished Plant (16-19)
 - i. He grows even in the sun's heat (16a)
 - ii. He has a flourishing life (16b-17)
 - "his shoots spread out over his garden"
 - "roots wrap around a rock pile"
 - "grasps a house of stones"
 - his life is growing and flourishing
 - iii. He may suffer setbacks (18)

- even when he is removed from his place
- it will deny him
- He will also be removed by suffering
- iv. He will eventually have joy and growth (19)
 - This is the joy of his way
 - He will produce others (growth)

IV. Bildad States His Conclusion (20-22)

1. God will give to man according to His work (20)
 - a. God will not reject men of integrity
 - b. God will not support the evildoers
2. God will always bless the righteous with goodness in life (21-22)
 - a. He will give you joy and laughter
 - b. He will punish the wicked

If Bildad's position is correct, there is no undeserved suffering in the universe. This means there can be no substitutionary suffering. There can be no grace because man must be righteous to receive God's blessing. There can be no mercy because God must give man according to His works. If God did only give to man according to his works, then we are all in a lot of trouble. (Rom. 3)