

Job's LONG Response to Bildad

Job 26 - 31

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He Declares That Bildad's Counsel has been Worthless (26:1-4)

CHAPTER 26

1 And Job answered and said, **2** How hast thou helped the powerless; how saved the arm that is without strength! **3** How hast thou counselled him that hath no wisdom, and abundantly declared the thing as it is! **4** For whom hast thou uttered words? and whose spirit came from thee?

He Demonstrates His Own Ability to Describe the Greatness of God (26:5-14)

5 The shades tremble beneath the waters and the inhabitants thereof; **6** Sheol is naked before him, and destruction hath no covering. **7** He stretcheth out the north over empty

space, he hangeth the earth upon nothing; **8** He bindeth up the waters in his thick clouds, and the cloud is not rent under them. **9** He covereth the face of his throne, he spreadeth his cloud upon it. **10** He hath traced a fixed circle over the waters, unto the confines of light and darkness. **11** The pillars of the heavens tremble and are astonished at his rebuke. **12** He stirreth up the sea by his power, and by his understanding he smiteth through Rahab. **13** By his Spirit the heavens are adorned; his hand hath formed the fleeing serpent. **14** Lo, these are the borders of his ways; but what a whisper of a word do we hear of him! And the thunder of his power, who can understand?

As He Continues His Discourse, He Maintains His Integrity (27:1-10)

CHAPTER 27

1 And Job continued his parable and said, **2** As GOD liveth, who hath taken away my right, and the Almighty, who hath embittered my soul, **3** All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of +God is in my nostrils, **4** My lips shall not speak unrighteousness, nor my tongue utter deceit! **5** Be it far from me that I should justify you; till I die I will not remove my blamelessness from me. **6** My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go: my heart reproacheth *me* not one of my days. **7** Let mine enemy be as the wicked, and he that riseth up against me as the unrighteous. **8** For what is the hope of the ungodly, when *God* cutteth him off, when +God taketh away his soul? **9** Will GOD hear his cry when distress cometh upon him? **10** Doth he delight himself in the Almighty? will he at all times call upon +God?

He Will Teach His Friends What God Will Do to the Wicked (27:11-23)

11 I will teach you concerning the hand of GOD; what is with the Almighty will I not conceal. **12** Behold, ye yourselves have all seen *it*; and why are ye thus altogether vain? **13** This is the portion of the wicked man with GOD, and the heritage of the violent, which they receive from the Almighty: — **14** If his children be multiplied, it is for the sword, and his offspring shall not be satisfied with bread; **15** Those that remain of him shall be buried by death, and his widows shall not weep. **16** Though he heap up silver as the dust, and prepare

clothing as the clay; **17** He may prepare it, but the just shall put it on; and the innocent shall divide the silver. **18** He buildeth his house as the moth, and as a booth that a keeper maketh. **19** He lieth down rich, but will do so no more; he openeth his eyes, and he is not. **20** Terrors overtake him like waters; a whirlwind stealeth him away in the night. **21** The east wind carrieth him away and he is gone; and as a storm it hurleth him out of his place. **22** And *God* shall cast upon him and not spare: he would fain flee out of his hand. **23** *Men* shall clap their hands at him, and shall hiss him out of his place.

He Gives a Discourse on the True Source of Wisdom (28)

CHAPTER 28

1 Surely there is a vein for the silver, and a place for gold which they refine; **2** Iron is taken out of the dust, and copper is molten out of the stone. **3** *Man* putteth an end to the darkness, and exploreth to the utmost limit, the stones of darkness and of the shadow of death. **4** He openeth a shaft far from the inhabitants *of the earth*: forgotten of the foot, they hang suspended; away below men they hover. **5** As for the earth, out of it cometh bread, and underneath it is turned up as by fire; **6** The stones of it are the place of sapphires, and it hath dust of gold. **7** It is a path no bird of prey knoweth, and the vulture's eye hath not seen it; **8** The proud beasts have not trodden it, nor the fierce lion passed over it. **9** *Man* putteth forth his hand upon the flinty rock, he overturneth the mountains by the root. **10** He cutteth out channels in the rocks, and his eye seeth every precious thing. **11** He bindeth the streams that they drip not, and what is hidden he bringeth forth to light. **12** But wisdom, where shall it be found? and where is the place of understanding? **13** *Man* knoweth not the value thereof; and it is not found in the land of the living. **14** The deep saith, It is not in me; and the sea saith, It is not with me. **15** Choice gold cannot be given for it, nor silver be weighed for its price. **16** It is not set in the balance with gold of Ophir, with the precious onyx, and the sapphire. **17** Gold and glass cannot be compared to it, nor vessels of fine gold be its exchange. **18** Corals and crystal are no more remembered; yea, the acquisition of wisdom is above rubies. **19** The topaz of Ethiopia shall not be compared to it, neither shall it be set in the balance with pure gold. **20** Whence then cometh wisdom? and where is the place of understanding? **21** For it is hidden from the eyes of all living, and concealed from the fowl of the heavens. **22** Destruction and death say, We have heard its report with our ears. **23** *God* understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth its place: **24** For he looketh to

the ends of the earth, he seeth under the whole heaven. **25** In making a weight for the wind, and meting out the waters by measure, **26** In appointing a statute for the rain, and a way for the thunder's flash: **27** Then did he see it, and declare it; he established it, yea, and searched it out; **28** And unto man he said, Lo, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.

As He Continues His Discourse, He Recalls the Good Days of His Past (29)

CHAPTER 29

1 And Job continued his parable and said, **2** Oh that I were as in months past, as in the days when +God preserved me; **3** When his lamp shone over my head, *and* by his light I walked through darkness; **4** As I was in the days of my youth, when the secret counsel of +God was over my tent, **5** When the Almighty was yet with me, my young men round about me; **6** When my steps were bathed in milk, and the rock poured out beside me rivers of oil! ... **7** When I went out to the gate by the city, when I prepared my seat on the Broadway, **8** The young men saw me, and hid themselves; and the aged arose *and* stood up; **9** Princes refrained from talking, and laid the hand on their mouth; **10** The voice of the nobles was hushed, and their tongue cleaved to their palate. **11** When the ear heard *me*, then it blessed me, and when the eye saw *me*, it gave witness to me; **12** For I delivered the afflicted that cried, and the fatherless who had no helper. **13** The blessing of him that was perishing came upon me, and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy. **14** I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; my justice was as a mantle and a turban. **15** I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame; **16** I was a father to the needy, and the cause which I knew not I searched out; **17** And I broke the jaws of the unrighteous, and plucked the spoil out of his teeth. **18** And I said, I shall die in my nest, and multiply my days as the sand; **19** My root shall be spread out to the waters, and the dew will lie all night on my branch; **20** My glory shall be fresh in me, and my bow be renewed in my hand. **21** Unto me they listened, and waited, and kept silence for my counsel: **22** After my words they spoke not again, and my speech dropped upon them; **23** And they waited for me as for the rain, and they opened their mouth wide as for the latter rain. **24** *If* I laughed on them, they believed *it* not; and they troubled not the serenity of my countenance. **25** I chose their way, and sat as chief, and dwelt as a king in the army, as one that comforteth mourners.

He Then Reflects Upon His Present Condition (30)

CHAPTER 30

1 But now they that are younger than I have me in derision, whose fathers I would have disdained to set with the dogs of my flock. **2** Yea, whereto *should* the strength of their hands *profit* me, *men* in whom vigour hath perished? **3** Withered up through want and hunger, they flee into waste places long since desolate and desert: **4** They gather the salt-wort among the bushes, and the roots of the broom for their food. **5** They are driven forth from among *men* — they cry after them as after a thief — **6** To dwell in gloomy gorges, in caves of the earth and the rocks: **7** They bray among the bushes; under the brambles they are gathered together: **8** Sons of fools, and sons of nameless sires, they are driven out of the land. **9** And now I am their song, yea, I am their byword. **10** They abhor me, they stand aloof from me, yea, they spare not to spit in my face. **11** For he hath loosed my cord and afflicted me; so they cast off the bridle before me. **12** At *my* right hand rise the young brood; they push away my feet, and raise up against me their pernicious ways; **13** They mar my path, they set forward my calamity, without any to help them; **14** They come in as through a wide breach: amid the confusion they roll themselves onward. **15** Terrors are turned against me; they pursue mine honour as the wind; and my welfare is passed away like a cloud. **16** And now my soul is poured out in me; days of affliction have taken hold upon me. **17** The night pierceth through my bones *and detacheth them* from me, and my gnawing pains take no rest: **18** By their great force they have become my raiment; they bind me about as the collar of my coat. **19** He hath cast me into the mire, and I have become like dust and ashes. **20** I cry unto thee, and thou answerest me not; I stand up, and thou lookest at me. **21** Thou art changed to a cruel one to me; with the strength of thy hand thou pursuest me. **22** Thou liftest me up to the wind; thou causest me to be borne away, and dissolvest my substance. **23** For I know that thou wilt bring me to death, and into the house of assemblage for all living. **24** Indeed, no prayer *availeth* when he stretcheth out *his* hand: though they cry when he destroyeth. **25** Did not I weep for him whose days were hard? was not my soul grieved for the needy? **26** For I expected good, and there came evil; and I waited for light, but there came darkness. **27** My bowels well up, and rest not; days of affliction have confronted me. **28** I go about blackened, but not by the sun; I stand up, I cry in the congregation. **29** I am become a brother to jackals, and a companion of ostriches. **30** My skin is become black *and falleth* off me, and my bones are parched with heat. **31** My harp also is *turned* to mourning, and my pipe into the voice of weepers.

One Last Time, Job Maintains His Integrity (31)

CHAPTER 31

1 I made a covenant with mine eyes; and how should I fix my regard upon a maid? **2** For what would have been *my* portion of +God from above, and what the heritage of the Almighty from on high? **3** Is not calamity for the unrighteous? and misfortune for the workers of iniquity? **4** Doth not he see my ways, and number all my steps? **5** If I have walked with falsehood, and my foot hath hasted to deceit, **6** (Let me be weighed in an even balance, and +God will take knowledge of my blamelessness;) **7** If my step have turned out of the way, and my heart followed mine eyes, and if any blot cleaveth to my hands; **8** Let me sow, and another eat; and let mine offspring be rooted out. **9** If my heart have been enticed unto a woman, so that I laid wait at my neighbour's door, **10** Let my wife grind for another, and let others bow down upon her. **11** For this is an infamy; yea, it is an iniquity *to be judged by* the judges: **12** For it is a fire that consumeth to destruction, and would root out all mine increase. **13** If I have despised the cause of my bondman or of my bondmaid, when they contended with me, **14** What then should I do when GOD riseth up? and if he visited, what should I answer him? **15** Did not he that made me in the womb make him? and did not One fashion us in the womb? **16** If I have withheld the poor from *their* desire, or caused the eyes of the widow to fail; **17** Or have eaten my morsel alone, so that the fatherless ate not thereof, **18** (For from my youth he grew up with me as with a father, and I have guided the *widow* from my mother's womb;) **19** If I have seen any perishing for want of clothing, or any needy without covering; **20** If his loins have not blessed me, and if he were not warmed with the fleece of my lambs; **21** If I have lifted up my hand against an orphan, because I saw my help in the gate: **22** *Then* let my shoulder fall from the shoulder-blade, and mine arm be broken from the bone! **23** For calamity from GOD was a terror to me, and by reason of his excellency I was powerless. **24** If I have made gold my hope, or said to the fine gold, My confidence! **25** If I rejoiced because my wealth was great, and because my hand had gotten much; **26** If I beheld the sun when it shone, or the moon walking in brightness, **27** And my heart have been secretly enticed, so that my mouth kissed my hand: **28** This also would be an iniquity for the judge, for I should have denied the GOD who is above. **29** If I rejoiced at the destruction of him that hated me, and exulted when evil befell him; **30** (Neither have I suffered my mouth to sin by asking his life with a curse;) **31** If the men of my tent said not,

Who shall find one that hath not been satisfied with his meat? — **32** The stranger did not lodge without; I opened my doors to the pathway. **33** If I covered my transgressions as Adam, by hiding mine iniquity in my bosom, **34** Because I feared the great multitude, and the contempt of families terrified me, so that I kept silence, and went not out of the door, ... **35** Oh that I had one to hear me! Behold my signature: let the Almighty answer me! And let mine opponent write an accusation! **36** Would I not take it upon my shoulder? I would bind it on to me *as* a crown; **37** I would declare unto him the number of my steps; as a prince would I come near to him. **38** If my land cry out against me, and its furrows weep together; **39** If I have eaten the fruits thereof without money, and have tormented to death the souls of its owners: **40** Let thistles grow instead of wheat, and tares instead of barley. The words of Job are ended.