

“This Is the Place of Him That Knoweth Not God”

Job 18:1-21

A secondary title to this might be “The Failures of a Wicked Man.” Once again, Bildad was equating Job with a wicked man because of what Job had said regarding his friends. Instead of responding to Job the way they should have, they just railed on him even more. As has been the case throughout our study on the life of Job, once again we find one of his friends (Bildad, in this case) stating truths that don’t apply to Job.

The introduction of this chapter is found in verses 1-3. It is there that Bildad lets Job know that he is not satisfied with his response and is somewhat sarcastic towards Job in his second discourse.

In this chapter we find that ultimately the wicked man, the godless man, the one who disregards God’s Word, will fail – and his failure is found here in several ways:

I. THE WICKED MAN’S SWAY (INFLUENCE) WILL FAIL – VS. 4-7

A. In verse 4, Bildad addresses Job (as a wicked man, in his view) and refers to his anger, as if Job were a madman in a fit of rage, thinking the earth would stop spinning for him – he has in mind that Job thought he was indispensable to God, and held a great deal of sway with Jehovah.

B. Bildad then makes several statements that are true, as they relate to the end state of the wicked on earth, and how God views them (but, again, they don't apply to Job).

1. Verse 5-6 refers to the "light of the wicked"
 - a) That is his perceived (or real, whichever the case may be) influence over others.
 - b) It says that light will be "put out" and the "spark of his fire shall not shine" – this is a reference to final state of the wicked man in hell (called the "outer darkness").

Matthew 8:12

12 But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 22:13

13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 25:30

30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

- c) Verse six is speaking of that light as being "darkness" – that is, it was not true light in the first place because, as we find in the Gospels, it was not from the Lord.

John 1:9

⁹ That was the true Light, which lighteth

every man that cometh into the world.

2. Verse 7 then references that perceived (or real) influence, sway, that the wicked man has when it says that the "steps of his strength shall be straitened," that is to say that his "swagger" will be taken away (or, literally, hindered).

II. THE WICKED MAN'S SAFETY WILL FAIL – VS. 8-10

A. These verses use terms like "snare," "gin," "robber," and "trap" – all referring to someone (or animal) walking completely unaware of any danger around him

B. The wicked man thinks he is safe and there is nothing he has to fear, and then suddenly there is danger, seen in the Bible as death

C. Again, Bildad is speaking to Job, applying this to him, thinking him to be wicked, he feels Job is oblivious to his own danger of forcing God's hand and taking him in a trap of Job's own making (vs. 8)

Psalm 9:15

¹⁵ The heathen are sunk down in the pit that they made: in the net which they hid is their own foot taken.

Psalm 35:8

⁸ Let destruction come upon him at unawares; and let his net that he hath hid catch himself: into that very destruction let him fall.

III. THE WICKED MAN'S STRENGTH WILL FAIL – VS. 11-13

A. *By that we mean that his strength to do anything about his eternal destiny will fail when he dies.*

B. *Notice that verse 11 says of the wicked man that the terrors of thoughts of eternity don't drive him to his knees in humility to God, they drive him to his feet to run from God, either out of fear of Him, or out of disdain for Him.*

Psalm 53:5

⁵ There were they in great fear, where no fear was: for God hath scattered the bones of him that encampeth against thee: thou hast put them to shame, because God hath despised them.

Proverbs 28:1

¹ The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.

C. *Verses 12 and 13 continue with the thought of the wicked man's safety failing – his strength shall be "hungerbitten" (shall be starved, shall disappear), and it (the hunger) will "devour" his skin (which is what starvation eventually does) – this describes what the wicked will endure after death in the terrors of hell.*

IV. A WICKED MAN'S SATISFACTION WILL FAIL – VS. 14-21

A. Satisfaction in knowing all is well with his future will fail – vs. 14-15.

B. Satisfaction in knowing he will be remembered by others will fail – vs. 16-18.

C. Satisfaction in knowing his children will keep his memory alive will fail – vs. 19-20.

Conclusion: The conclusion to this chapter is found in verse 21.