

Job

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Job 26



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Vss. 1-4

- In these opening verses Job is being a bit sarcastic, chiding Bildad and the others for failing to fulfill their initial task, which was to bring comfort to Job. Instead, Bildad ended his short speech of Ch. 25 by indirectly calling Job a maggot and a worm.
- Job begins his sarcasm by congratulating Bildad for all his fine help! Job gives Bildad full credit for being his savior.
- Job's tone includes a heavy amount of accusation in verse 3. And it's difficult to know if these are declarations or questions? If a declaration then the sarcasm pours through. If a question, then you feel the accusation. "What advice you have given to one without wisdom? What helpful insight have you abundantly provided?"
- Finally, Job presses the three as to their education, as to where they came up with all their brilliant insights. "...whose spirit was expressed through you?" Who are you quoting? What great scholar's words are flowing through you? Whose spirit is really speaking? God's? Satan's? Whatever you paid to get all this wisdom was too much! If you took a class on hospice care I feel sure you failed!

Vss. 5-14

- The remainder of the chapter again speaks to the awesome majesty and power of God, but also of His hiddenness.
- Vs. 5 may read "the shades" or "the departed spirits". In either case it is that which is hidden from our eyes that still tremble before God, for He sees them even when we cannot. Indeed, (vs. 6) even Sheol, the place of the dead, is fully exposed to the eyes of God and Abaddon, the underworld place of destruction, cannot hide from the ever-watchful eye of God.
- In verses 7-9, Job speaks of how God is Master over all the universe. He marvels at how God created out of nothing, out of the void. Critics decry the ancients as "pre-scientific", but Job is well aware of the life cycle of water: Rain to the streams and streams to the lakes and sea and back to the clouds again. And he can see how full the clouds are of water, yet they do not burst but float along. And at night, when a full moon can illuminate the desert to be nearly as bright as day, God can use His clouds to cover the whole face of the moon and bring total darkness.
- Vs. 10 is interesting to ivory tower scholars because Job uses two words that appear no where in Hebrew. Here he is describing two natural phenomena. If one goes up on a high enough mountain

looking out over the Mediterranean Sea, the water is vast enough to see the curvature of the earth, the circle God inscribes on the surface of the waters. Also, at daybreak or sunset, one can see at such a height the divide between the daytime's light and nighttime's darkness at daybreak or sunset. If you look at creation long enough and well enough, it is not only belief in God that is easy, but an admiration for His handiwork!

- The “pillars of heaven” in verse 11 are the pillars that the ancients believed held up the curved dome of the heavens above and as mighty as they surely must have been, they tremble when God speaks in anger.
- Verses 12-13 outline some of God’s instruments of Creation. **First**, “He quieted the sea with His *power*.” The desert oriented people Job came from equated the ever-changing sea with chaos, whereas the desert primarily remains unchanged day after day. So here Job is pointing to how God by His power turned chaos into order, a parallel to Genesis 1:9 where God separated dry land from the sea. **Second** is God’s *understanding*. As Babylon is a synonym for Rome in Revelation, in Job “Rahab” is a synonym for Egypt (see 9:13 and even in Psalm 87:4 and 89:10 as well as Isaiah 30:7 and 51:9). The word here for “understanding” may also mean “wisdom” or “cunning”. Either way, Job’s point is that God has proven to be mightier than the magicians, wealth, and power of the world’s greatest empire. **Third**, “By His breath the heavens are cleared”. Again, in both Hebrew and Greek, there is only one word for “breath”, “wind”, and “spirit”. So it would be just as correct to say, “By His spirit the heavens are cleared.” But in both the Old and New Testaments is the suggestion that God delivers His spirit as he breathes. In Genesis 2:7 Adam became a living being when God breathed into Him the breath of life. Here, after overcoming the chaos of the sea, God “clears”, “makes fair/beautiful”, “orders” the heavens simply by His breath. **Fourth**, “His hand has pierced the fleeing serpent”. “Hand” is a common biblical synonym for “power”, thus having demonstrated His power and mastery over Creation and having defeated Satan and cast him out of Heaven, God further puts His stamp of ultimate authority over Heaven and earth by piercing the defeated and retreating serpent, Satan.
- Job recognizes that God’s fingerprints are all over Creation for all to see and that what we can see are just the “fringes/whispers of His ways”. And yet Job is all the more saddened that even though the evidence of God’s power and presence are everywhere, “...how faint a word we hear of Him!” God’s voice sounds like thunder making it impossible for human ears to understand.