

Bildad Declares the Fate of the Wicked

Job 18

Group ¹	C	V	Description
Bildad Speaks of the Wicked	18	1-4	Bildad asks Job to engage in a conversation
		5-21	Bildad speaks of the fate of the wicked

Communication, in particular, interpersonal communication, is a difficult skill to master but well worth the time spent in pursuing. Here is a case where Bildad responds to Job's lament in the previous chapters and asks him to engage in conversation and to stop treating him and his friends, who are Job's friends as well, as uninformed and challenges Job's attitude. Job and his friends are in an out-of-step dance where each responds to the other and yet aren't really listening to what is being said or only hearing in part. Sound familiar?

We've all experienced this and we've been on both sides of the conversation. We try to communicate with someone else but don't really understand what the other is saying to us or the other person misunderstands what is being said to them. What it comes down to is not *really* listening to the other person.

Bildad chastises Job for his attitude, regarding his lament being born, and does it by reminding Job of what happens to those who are judged by God, the ultimate Judge and the only one truly qualified to judge His creation, as wicked. It is not a pretty picture.

I think what Bildad is saying is that if Job really believes that God has judged him as wicked, here is the fate that awaits him. However, I don't think that Job's friends believe this is the case. Maybe I'm wrong but I think they are pointing out that since Job wasn't dead, his life is not over yet and God is not finished with him. If God was finished with him, he would be remembered no more and yet here they are interacting with him.

Now the interesting thing about this is that the book of Job is believed to have been written about events from around the time Abraham², although no one knows for sure. But here we are still reading it and discussing it 4000+ years later. Job was hardly forgotten by God, or the rest of the world.

Listen well, speak plainly, and seek to understand and be understood.

Key Words: Old Testament, Wisdom, Job, Bildad, Communication, Wicked, Judgment



This work by James Swanson is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/) International License. Originally published at studythebook.org on February 12, 2016.

Bibliography

Galan, Benjamin et al. *Bible Overview*. Torrance: Bristol Works, Rose Publishing, 2012. Print.
 (NASB) *New American Standard Bible*. La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995. Print.

1 (NASB) "Group" column from the headings in the NASB text.

2 (Galan et al. 83-86)