



Eternal PERSPECTIVE Job

BIBLE TEXT | JOB 18:1-21

1 Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said: **2** "How long will you hunt for words? Consider, and then we will speak. **3** Why are we counted as cattle? Why are we stupid in your sight? **4** You who tear yourself in your anger, shall the earth be forsaken for you, or the rock be removed out of its place? **5** "Indeed, the light of the wicked is put out, and the flame of his fire does not shine. **6** The light is dark in his tent, and his lamp above him is put out. **7** His strong steps are shortened, and his own schemes throw him down. **8** For he is cast into a net by his own feet, and he walks on its mesh. **9** A trap seizes him by the heel; a snare lays hold of him. **10** A rope is hidden for him in the ground, a trap for him in the path. **11** Terrors frighten him on every side, and chase him at his heels. **12** His strength is famished, and calamity is ready for his stumbling. **13** It consumes the parts of his skin; the firstborn of death consumes his limbs. **14** He is torn from the tent in which he trusted and is brought to the king of terrors. **15** In his tent dwells that which is none of his; sulfur is scattered over his habitation. **16** His roots dry up beneath, and his branches wither above. **17** His memory perishes from the earth, and he has no name in the street. **18** He is thrust from light into darkness, and driven out of the world. **19** He has no posterity or progeny among his people, and no survivor where he used to live. **20** They of the west are appalled at his day, and horror seizes them of the east. **21** Surely such are the dwellings of the unrighteous, such is the place of him who knows not God."

DEVOTIONAL FOR JOB 18:1-21

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Sandwiched between Job Chapter 16, "Where Then Is My Hope?" and Job Chapter 18, "My Redeemer Lives," is Bildad's discourse. It would be reasonable to assume that the unkind words and assumptions that Bildad spoke into Job's life would throw Job further into doubt and confusion.

Why do we face hard times? The story of Job gives us a glimpse behind the scenes. We have already established that the reason Job faced unimaginable grief was not because he sinned, as his friends incorrectly assumed, but



because God pointed Job out to Satan. And Satan responded with a challenge, "Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life. But stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face." (Job 2:5,6).

Is there a time in your life that separated the before and the after? Like the timeline of your life is divided between everything that happened before that moment and after that moment? My moment came in 2020 when I spoke the words that led to the ending of my marriage. My Chapter 16 — where is my hope? What is your Chapter 16? The chapter where you ask God, "Where then is my hope? Who will see my hope?" (Job 16:15) When my sadness and questions led me to curl up on my sofa in the fetal position, the last thing I wanted was a lecture from Bildad.

Before the circumstances that broke me, I was an answer giver. I drew conclusions about people and circumstances I had no right to draw. I "Bildaded" my opinion without asking God His thoughts. I am saddened to think of the prideful and arrogant attitude that colored my advice. ...Until it was my turn to grieve. I did encounter Bildads, but God was kind to give me friends who silently sat with me in my sadness. Friends who asked me questions and didn't give me answers they didn't have. Friends who pointed me to God. And when I encountered God, really encountered God — I found my Redeemer.

"The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing" (Zephaniah 3:17). God draws near to the brokenhearted, and those who mourn He will comfort (Psalm 34:18). When God steps into the narrative, He quiets the noise of fools and gives meaning to your sorrow.

Questions:

1. How do you respond when a friend is facing grief? Do you feel like you need to fill the silence with noise?
2. How do you respond when you are grieving? What do you need?
3. If you are sad and asking where is the hope, consider [re:generation](#) on Monday's at 7pm. Re:generation took me down a path that led to healing and a new life in Christ.