

**Message #28****Job 26:1-14**

As we come to this 26<sup>th</sup> chapter of Job, we come to a chapter that has been called "...one of the grandest recitals in the whole book" (Anderson, p. 216). **In this chapter, Job begins one of the great addresses in the book of Job that will not end until the end of chapter 31.**

What becomes clear from this section is that Job was a very wise and very spiritual man. He was way out of the league of Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar. These three—Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar had been talking about God at a very surface level compared to Job's knowledge.

Job knew God and he knew God's Word and that point is very clear.

**JOB DEMONSTRATES HOW WRONG THESE THREE HAD BEEN BY USING TRUE RIGHTEOUS SARCASM AND BY PRESENTING THEOLOGICAL DOCTRINE ABOUT GOD THAT THEY KNEW NOTHING ABOUT.**

This chapter breaks down into three main verbal component parts:

**VERBAL COMPONENT #1 – Job responds to Bildad. 26:1**

Job was completely ticked off by these guys and their attitudes. Many assume that the real mark of spirituality is to just take one hit after another and never say a word. Job did not believe that and he was the most spiritual man on earth.

Whenever any of these guys wanted to discuss God and His work, Job could take that discussion to a much greater level than these three combined. When they started piously discussing theology, they were talking to a man who knew more on the subject than they would ever know.

The pronoun "you" (v. 2, 3, 4) is singular, which means Job is aiming this response straight at Bildad after Bildad had given him his big theological lecture in chapter 25.

Job's response is not based on emotion or feeling, it is based on fact. Fact is when it came to the subject of God, there was no man on earth who was at Job's level of understanding. He could outthink anyone and outtalk anyone and in this chapter that is exactly what he does.

Again, if we remember that God says that Job is the most spiritual man on this earth by His classification, then we learn a very critical lesson in that there is a place for a spiritually-minded man or woman to defend himself. Many of the things the Apostle Paul writes in II Corinthians are designed to defend himself against false criticism. Jesus Christ often responded to things that were being said about him. That is what Job does.

When these guys started to bring up the subject of God, they were talking to a man who knew truth at a much deeper level than they did and that is why we read in **verse 1**, "then Job responded."

**VERBAL COMPONENT #2 – Job rebukes Bildad. 26:2-4**

In this text, Job uses a righteous and biting sarcasm to give a stinging rebuke to Bildad and his other friends. David Thomas, one of the leading Bible teachers in England in the 1800's, who wrote an excellent commentary on Job, said that sarcasm is not wrong to use when it 1) chastises one who is wrong; 2) corrects an error and 3) when it is used as a shield for self-defense (*Book of Job*, p. 301).

There are six rebukes that Job aims straight at Bildad:

**Rebuke #1 - You are of no help to the weak. 26:2a**

Job was literally a weak and hurting man and nothing Bildad said was of any help at all. Now Bildad has run his mouth in a pious way theologically. But he didn't say anything that would help anyone.

It is possible to run our mouths and fill the air with a bunch of Bible verses that don't mean a thing and don't accomplish a thing. That is what Bildad did.

**Rebuke #2 - You do not deliver one without strength. 26:2b**

Nothing Bildad said or did could deliver or save or strengthen one who didn't have strength. Job admitted he needed strength but the words that Bildad filled the air with could not strengthen him in any way.

**Rebuke #3 - You don't give any counsel to one without wisdom. 26:3a**

Bildad was in no position to counsel anyone. His counsel could not even help one without wisdom, let alone one with wisdom.

**Rebuke #4 - You haven't given anyone any helpful insight. 26:3b**

Bildad knew things about God and life and he used his speech to say absolutely nothing.

**Rebuke #5 - You don't even know who you are talking to. 26:4a**

Bildad had been lecturing the most godly man on this earth. He was in no position to analyze, criticize and lecture Job. This is Job's way of saying you cannot possibly be uttering and aiming your words at me because your arguments mean nothing.

**Rebuke #6 - You don't know what spirit is speaking through you. 26:4b**

Now this is very important to see. These verbal discussions were not coming from God.

As we said, this is Satan's final shot at Job. He has taken everything else from him so his final shot is to bring "friends" into his world who verbally put him down and lecture him. Satan could not get Job to curse God by a loss of business, family, reputation and health, so he is trying to get him to curse God by having these guys, who pretend to be right with God, put him down.

Bildad was a tool of Satan. When Job asks whose spirit is really expressed through you, the answer is Satan. These guys were being used by Satan to verbally attack the most godly man on the earth.

Do not miss this point. Satan uses people who pretend to know the mind of God to try and destroy one who truly is godly. These types of people are eloquent and theological, but they say nothing significant in the sight of God and they will be accountable for what they did and say.

When Martin Luther was called to trial by the Catholic Church and the Emperor himself and charged with heresy, he said: "Unless I am shown by the testimony of Scripture and by evident reasoning, unless I am overcome by means of the scriptural passages that I have cited, and unless my conscience is taken captive by the words of God, I am neither able nor willing to revoke anything, since to act against one's conscience is neither safe nor honest. Here I stand; God help me, I cannot do otherwise, amen!"

He would not admit he was wrong and that is exactly what Job did.

### **VERBAL COMPONENT #3 – Job exalts God. 26:5-14**

Job now becomes the theologian and the teacher. He is the one giving theological lectures.

Francis Anderson, in his commentary, says that this is one of the most fascinating, cosmological passages in the entire Bible. More than a dozen elements are listed here and the language and vocabulary are clearly from Genesis.

This is a great passage of Scripture that truly does exalt God and it certainly would tend to shut the mouths of those who listen to this. In fact, when Job is done none of the three will respond to what he says.

When Job's friends wanted to discuss and talk about God, they were talking to the ultimate theologian who could discuss things at a much deeper level than they ever could.

Job brings up twelve facts about God that not only would baffle his so-called friends, but they still baffle some scientists today.

### **Fact #1 - God is so powerful that the departed spirits tremble. 26:5**

Job had a solid perspective of death. At the moment of death the spirit of a person departs the body and enters into a place that is located "under the waters." This is the location of "Sheol."

There were two compartments to it—Abraham’s bosom, the place of comfort, and Hades, the place of fire (Luke 16:22-23). So in the O.T. times when a spirit would depart a body it would descend to this place.

Now notice the point—when the spirit gets to this place and sees the inhabitants, he trembles.

**Fact #2** - God is so powerful that He sees everything . **26:6**

Bildad had mentioned God’s presence and power high in heaven (25:2, 5), and Job says God’s presence and power are everywhere, including the region of the dead.

God sees all in Sheol and Abaddon, which refers to one who destroys, a name of Satan, is also on full display before God.

Now these guys were verbally destroying Job, being led of Satan, and Job says it is on full display before God.

**Fact #3** - God is so powerful that He hangs the world in space on nothing . **26:7**

Modern science is just beginning to grasp what Job reveals here and many stand in amazement of the knowledge of Astronomy and its accuracy. The northern sky is vast and the entire atmosphere is stretched on the northern pole. There are great constellations in the north.

God stretches out the north like a tent on a pole and hangs the earth on nothing. Matthew Henry said the art of man cannot hang even a feather upon nothing and yet God hangs the whole world on nothing.

**Fact #4** - God is so powerful that He uses clouds to hold His water. **26:8**

Rain comes from clouds and God stores His rain in the clouds and yet the clouds do not burst. Truth is there is much mystery in rain, especially to those who do not study the Bible.

**Fact #5** - God is so powerful that He determines how much of the moon we see. **26:9**

Who determines whether we see a full moon, half moon or crescent moon? What being is so powerful that He can actually determine how much of the moon we see? There is only one being and He is God.

**Fact #6** - God is so powerful that He determines the boundaries of the waters. **26:10a**

The Hebrew means that God draws a limit, like a circle on the water. He determines where the water ends and the shore begins.

**Fact #7** - God is so powerful that He determines the boundaries of light and darkness .  
**26:10b**

God is the One who determines how far light goes in the east and the west. He is the One who determines the boundaries of light and darkness.

**Fact #8** - God is so powerful that the heavens tremble at His rebuke. **27:11**

The “pillars of heaven” are used to describe towering mountain peaks that ascend high into the heavens. God causes majestic mountain ranges to even tremble.

If God causes the heavens to tremble at the rebuke of God, think for a moment what we will do when in the presence of God.

**Fact #9** - God is so powerful that He can quiet the sea. **27:12a**

When a hurricane hits and gale force winds howl, the only One who can quiet the sea down is Almighty God. Most meteorologists lie to the public in trying to convince them it is “mother nature.” The fact is it is Almighty God. He is the only one with enough power to quiet the seas.

**Fact #10** - God is so powerful that He can shatter the proud . **27:12b**

The name “Rahab” is used in Scriptures in different ways. It was a name of a repentant harlot (Josh. 2); it was the name of a proud enemy of Israel, Egypt, whom God crushed with the sea (Ps. 89:8-10) and it is a name used for Satan (Is. 51:9).

The point of this is that God is so powerful He can shatter proud nations and even a proud Satan.

**Fact #11** - God is so powerful that He can clear the heavens . **27:13a**

God can do whatever He wants in the heavens, on the earth and under the earth.

**Fact #12** - God is so powerful that He can pierce Satan . **27:13b**

Satan flees from God because he knows of God’s power, but God will track him down.

God is so powerful that this impressive list doesn’t even touch the fringe areas of His ways. The mightiest thunder which we hear, thunder which shakes the valley, is but a faint word from Him (**27:14**).

**Practical Consideration:**

1. There is nothing quite as comforting when we are hurting as thinking about the majestic power of God.
2. There are times when we need to confront a person and frankly say “you don’t know what you are talking about.”
3. We need to be the kind of person that does not add to someone else’s burden, but one who tries to comfort one burdened.