

# Lessons from the Story of Job

## *Bildad's First Discourse (Job 8)*

- 1. Bildad begins his speech in verse 2 by asking Job, "How long will you speak these things, and the words of your mouth be like a strong wind?" This echoes what Job had asked Eliphaz in Chapter 6, verse 26 – "Do you intend to rebuke my words, and the speeches of a desperate one, which are as wind?" – but Job probably didn't appreciate this coming from a friend's mouth rather than from his own. What does it mean for one's words to be like wind? And were Job's words actually like wind?*
- 2. In verse 3, Bildad exalts the justice of God, but it becomes increasingly clear that like Eliphaz, he speaks with the spirit of the accuser of the brethren. To see how stark this is, flip forward to his brief speech in Chapter 25. But Bildad's initial intent was to help turn his friend's heart to the Lord. How could he have done this without acting as the accuser? How can we do this?*
- 3. In verse 6, Bildad tells Job, "If you were pure and upright, surely now He would awake for you, and prosper your rightful dwelling place." He sees God's inaction on Job's behalf as a sign of Job's guilt. How can we distinguish between the Lord's testing and Lord's chastening in our own lives? How should we respond to each? Can we distinguish between the two in the lives of our brothers? Should we try? How can we give true comfort to our brothers in both times of chastening and times of trial?*
- 4. In verse 20, Bildad says, "Behold, God will not cast away the blameless, nor will He uphold evildoers." As we have discussed in previous weeks, it is unclear whether or not Job and his companions yet knew of the resurrection of the dead, but it seems likely that they didn't. In Chapter 3, verses 13-19, Job speaks of everyone – stillborn children and kings, the wicked and the weary – finding the same rest in the grave. If Bildad indeed did not know of the resurrection of the dead, and if he believed that God was in fact just, would it have been possible for him to see anything but the judgment of God in the death of Job's children and the calamities that had befallen Job?*