

THE BOOK OF JOB
Backward Thinking
Text: Job 8:1-6

Key Word: Backward

Key Thought: Some People Start with a Conclusion and Think Backwards to Try to Prove It?

Have you ever wondered why some people choose to read the Book of Revelation as their first book of the bible? You can just imagine how confusing that would be to anyone. The same is true **if we begin our conversations with a conclusion** and THEN begin to work backwards to the beginning. Yet we are seeing this happening almost every day in our newscasts. It seems to take years before the proof for their conclusions pan out as deception. When someone knows the truth and projects a totally different scenario then the current talking points they are referred to as liars and deceivers or put down as someone with little knowledge.

As we make our way through the Book of Job we can feel the pain and agony he faced as his comforters became even more aggressive in what they believed was true and pounced on him with their harsh words and conclusions. Chapter 8 moves us from Eliphaz the Temanite to Bildad the Shuhite. **HOPEFULLY THIS SERMON WILL SPEAK TO ALL OF US ABOUT RETRAINING OUR TONGUE AND ESPECIALLY WHEN WE BELIEVE WE ARE RIGHT.**

Proper conclusions take time to evolve. Truth often is hidden in the details of life. It takes a great deal of caution today to NOT be deceived by those who cleverly twist words and meanings. **Most of the new phrases** I hear from the mouths of **deceptive experts** don't even come close to meaning what they are projecting. Freedom in Christ has lost its meaning.

I. BACKWARD REBUKE (Job 8:1-4)

II. BACKWARD REPENTANCE (Job 8:5,6)

III. BACKWARD RECOMPENSE (Job 8:11-19)

IV. BACKWARD REWARD (Job 8:20-22)

I. BACKWARD REBUKE (Job 8:1-4)

There's a few old expressions my mom used to say that are worth repeating.

“With friends like this who needs enemies?” AND

“Watch out that your words don't come back to bite you.”

Just think of the way Bildad began his blistering words to Job

*“How long will you say such things? **Your words**
are a blustering wind.”*

Job 8:2

I. BACKWARD REBUKE (Job 8:1-4) (Contd.)

Bildad had no idea why Job was suffering. He assumed it had to be based upon a hidden sin. He was totally wrong! It didn't hinder his rebuke against Job by making the comment that God doesn't pervert justice. There is no doubt that God doesn't pervert justice. **Bildad began with a conclusion that Job and family had sinned against God and that is why they were being treated with such overwhelming judgement.**

“Does God pervert justice? Does the Almighty pervert what is right?”

4. When your children sinned against him, he gave them over to the penalty of their sin.”

Job 8:3,4

Can you think of anything more sensitive to a parent than accusing their children of sinning and that is why they are suffering illness or have been killed. I can't think of a more insensitive attack against someone. Remember that Job had even sacrificed for each of his children JUST IN CASE any of them HAD SINNED AND CURSED GOD IN THEIR HEARTS (Job 1:5). **What else could Bildad expect a righteous and blameless father to do?**

Once anyone steps into the area of attacking our children they are walking on dangerous ground. I once asked my daughter not to use the term “Momma bear” but I'm starting to rethink whether I should have kept my words to myself. It's because I'm realizing that I have a “Papa Bear” attitude. You can say things about me and attack me but leave my children alone or expect for me to stand up with my claws in place and my teeth indicating that you are in trouble! The same is true about my wife. Don't ever try to come between us - because it will rise up a righteous indignation within my spirit.

II. BACKWARD REPENTANCE (Job 8:5,6)

Bildad just didn't begin with a **Backward Rebuke**, he continued with a **Backward Repentance**.

“But if you will seek God earnestly and plead with the Almighty,

6. if you are pure and upright, even now he will rouse himself on your behalf and restore you to your prosperous state.”

Job 8:5-6

The word repentance means “*feel or express sincere regret or remorse*” according to the Oxford University Press Dictionary. To “**seek**” or “**plead**” with God are strong words.

II. BACKWARD REPENTANCE (Job 8:5,6) (Contd.)

It's important to repent of sins we have committed before God BUT NOT FOR THINGS PEOPLE ASSUME WE HAVE COMMITTED BECAUSE OF THEIR BACKWARD IMAGINATIONS. We need to stand up and fight against words that try to accuse us of something we have never done. That is a weight we DON'T need to carry. We have enough things to weigh us down.

Bildad, like many other accusers, have no idea what God is up to. I've been told several times that God was going to judge me and this church if I didn't do what they had convinced themselves God was going to do if I didn't surrender to "*their words from God.*" Those supposed times of judgment have come and gone without the outcomes that they were sure would take place. I've learned not to fear those kinds of people and their words. They prove by their words that they are false prophets. I listen very closely when someone says "**God Told Me or Thus saith the Lord.**" They are definitely not prophets of God especially when they seldom repent even when **THEIR WORDS** don't come to pass.

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Date: May 7/23

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Jesus, Lover of my Soul (It's all about You)

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