

JOB

A MAN OF HEROIC ENDURANCE

STUDY TEN

Reassuring Hope for the Assaulted and Abused

Selections from Job 18–19

“How long Job, how long?” That’s the way Bildad sees this whole thing. He’s not interested in Job’s pain. He’s interested in Job shutting up and admitting that he’s sinful.

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

THE musical masterpiece *Messiah* has stirred the hearts of countless audiences since George Frideric Handel composed it nearly three hundred years ago. The soaring strains of the “Hallelujah Chorus” still lift people to their feet in respect and rapture whenever it is performed.

The lyrics in Handel’s score trace the story of redemption in fifty-three movements divided into three parts: Prophecy and Nativity (Part 1), Passion and Resurrection (Part 2), and Redemption and Promise (Part 3). Climaxing Part 2 is the “Hallelujah Chorus,” but Handel’s masterpiece is far from finished—just as the story of redemption is not over at Christ’s resurrection.

Part 3 looks forward to Christ’s return, the promise of our resurrection, and eternal life beyond the grave. The magnificent finale, “Worthy Is the Lamb,” takes its lyrics from Revelation 5:12. In fact, all the lyrics are drawn from Scripture, including the lyrics in the soprano aria, “I Know That My Redeemer Liveth”—the core hope of every believer.

What may surprise you is that these words first appeared on the lips of Job! The suffering soul who lost everything dear to him—everything but one thing: his *hope*.

“I know that my Redeemer lives,” Job declared through tears of grief and pain (Job 19:25). With every ounce of remaining strength, he held on to his faith that God would one day restore him, even if that day came after his death. It’s a beautiful hope that we share with Job, which we’ll examine in its context in this *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study.



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SEARCHING
THE
SCRIPTURES
BIBLE STUDIES

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PREPARE YOUR HEART

Most people tremble when they think about death. “Fear and trembling overwhelm me,” David confessed, “and I can’t stop shaking” (Psalm 55:5). Our passage is about facing death with hope. As you begin, invite the Lord to calm your fears and strengthen your faith through Job’s words.



TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

On the morning Job’s trials began, the sun rose as it did on any other day. Remember how Job 1:6 begins? “Now there was a day” (NASB). And again in Job 2:1, “Again there was a day” (NASB). Suddenly, tragedy struck in waves as Job rushed toward the scene of carnage—the lost flocks, servants, and children. Then, later, his own health was taken.

We can’t know for certain, but Job seemed to have an inkling that something terrible was about to happen, because he was spiritually prepared for the worst. In all his loss, Job did not sin with his lips. He didn’t abandon his faith and curse God.

For many centuries, Job’s resolute example has led and encouraged readers of his book. He has become for Christians not a perfect man, not a flawless man, not the ideal model—that’s Jesus alone—but a remarkably patient, enduring, resilient soul within his crucible of suffering. Job’s example gave us the saying first coined by James, “the patience of Job” (James 5:11 KJV).

Job’s patience through his suffering, however, reached the breaking point with his friends, who took turns unleashing their unfettered critiques. In this second round of dialogues with them, we hear from Bildad, who couldn’t restrain himself from slamming Job one more time.



Observation: How Long . . . Job?

By now, you may anticipate what Bildad will say. He took aim at Job in Job 18:2 much like he had in 8:2, “How long?” Sounding exasperated, Bildad insulted poor Job before offering *four word portraits* of Job as a dying man. Some friend! Read [Job 18–19](#) as an overview before diving into the details.¹

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Bildad's Second Speech—Job 18

To strong-arm Job into admitting his sin, Bildad first tried ridiculing him. What abusive assault did Bildad open with in *Job 18:1–4*?

If his attempts to shame and insult Job didn't work, Bildad's next tactic was to frighten him into repentance. In the following chart, summarize the bleak portraits Bildad used to describe the terrors of death awaiting Job.

Portrait of Death	Summary
<i>Job 18:5–6</i>	
<i>Job 18:7–10</i>	
<i>Job 18:11–15</i>	
<i>Job 18:16–21</i>	

Bildad's fear tactic, however, didn't move Job. Bildad had made two mistakes. First, he assumed wrongly that Job feared dying and meeting God face-to-face. Second, he assumed wrongly that his abusive assault would bend Job's iron will. Let's see how Job responded.

Job's Strong Response—Job 19

Much like a tennis match filled with long volleys, Job replied to Bildad in four stanzas, which we'll highlight in segments: *Job 19:2–3, 7–9, 13–19, 23–26, 29*.

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Job Addressed Bildad's Insults—Job 19:2–3

What four colorful verbs did Job use to capture his degree of indignation with Bildad?

Job Lamented God's Silence—Job 19:7–9

When appealing to God because of his friends' mistreatment, how did Job describe God's apparent silence toward him?

Job Grieved over Family and Friends—Job 19:13–19

Disaster struck Job like a runaway train. Flocks, servants, all his children, and God's presence were taken. Now, he mourned all remaining relationships that had become estranged. Whom did Job cite on his lengthy list? How utterly alone Job must have felt.

Job Proclaimed Hope in God! Job 19:23–26, 29

Job found a moment of clarity and insight. What was his plea, according to Job 19:23–24?

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A moment of life-sustaining hope dawned on Job like a ray of morning sun piercing a pitch-black night. Amid torturous pain, monumental loss, and searing accusation, what did he confidently proclaim, according to Job 19:25–26?

Job concluded with deep eloquence and with a divine indictment of his three friends. In 19:29, how did Job turn the tables on them?

Job was saying, “I shall see Him myself, my own eyes shall see Him, not another.” There will be a resurrection; there will be a changed world. When Handel wrote his magnum opus, he had the soprano sing it, “Oh, my Redeemer lives. I know He lives.” Thank You, Lord, for preserving Job’s hope, for every generation through time. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Interpretation: Misguided Theology . . . Misguided Motive

Bildad was blinded by a misguided theology which is summarized as follows.

- Because God is just and fair . . . God punishes the wicked and blesses the righteous.
- Because Job suffers . . . he must be under God’s judgment for sin.
- Therefore, if Job repents of his sin, God will bless him; if he doesn’t repent, God will continue judging him.

How is Bildad’s *theology of suffering* flawed?

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Job realized there was no sin he hadn't confessed, so he saw what he was going through as a mystery. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

As Bildad continued, his theology showed even more cracks. When rebuking and accusing Job of his woeful condition, Bildad stated,

*“Certainly these are the dwellings of the wicked,
And this is the place of him who does not know God.”* (Job 18:21 NASB)

How is Bildad's *theology of Job's spiritual condition* misguided? Why is his motive also misguided?

Reproof based on solid theology should promote healing and spiritual growth. Let's examine how correction received from the right person, in the right way, and with the right motive brings life.



Correlation: The Tongue Brings Life or Death

Scripture has much to say about the power of life or death in the tongue. How did David depict the tongue of his enemies in [Psalm 57:4; 64:1–4](#)?

The book of Proverbs sharply contrasts the power of the tongue to deliver either life or death. Read [Proverbs 12:18; 15:4; 25:11–12](#). What word pictures did the writer employ to create contrast? What benefit comes from a wisely offered rebuke?

What an asset or a liability is the tongue!

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Good reproof brings healing. Initially it hurts; ultimately it heals. If only Bildad could have said, “There’s something that we don’t grasp. God’s up to something great, and we must comfort our friend as he goes through this great trial for whatever reason God has.” If only he would have admitted he doesn’t know why. If only he would have just been there to understand Job and show him grace.
—Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Application: Hope Beyond Death

Death might stretch its shadow over our soul, but it need not shake our foundation. Pastor Chuck Swindoll leaves us with two lasting lessons about hope and assurance.

First, *there is nothing like hope in the truth to clarify perspective and to keep us moving forward.* What scriptural truth gives you the most hope?

Second, *there is nothing like the lack of assurance to haunt your steps and make you afraid.* As your head sinks into the pillow each night, it is unsettling not to know whether you would spend eternity in heaven or hell. But when we place our faith alone in Christ alone, we have assurance that He has rescued us from judgment. What biblical assurance guards your mind when fear keeps you awake at night?

Job looked beyond his death to the hope of standing before his Lord in his restored and resurrected body. “In my body I will see God!” he declared with joy (Job 19:26). When you imagine that moment for yourself, do you *know* with confidence—like Job knew—that you will see the face of God gazing upon you as His child?

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Handel's aria, "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth," concludes with this assurance from Paul: "Now is Christ risen from the dead . . . the firstfruits of them that slept" (1 Corinthians 15:20 KJV). Our Savior's resurrection guarantees our resurrection. Death has no hold on those in Him! This is the message of hope we can share with those who are suffering.



A FINAL PRAYER

I'm grateful, my Father, for words such as I have heard. I come to the Lord Jesus Christ, to the cross, where the payment was made in full for the sins of my life. Not by what I have done but by believing in what Christ has done, my destination is assured. In the name of Christ. Amen.

ENDNOTE

1. To learn more about Pastor Chuck Swindoll's *Searching the Scriptures* Bible-study method, go to the web page, "[How Does Pastor Chuck Swindoll Study the Bible?](#)"

For the 2026 broadcasts, this *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study was developed by Marshall F. Davis in collaboration with Bryce Klabunde, vice president of *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, based upon the original outlines, charts, and transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll's messages. Copyright © 2002, 2026 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.

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