

“I Know That My Redeemer Liveth”

Introduction. I wish I take away people’s pain, but no one can do that. All we can do is walk by faith, trusting in His good will (2 Corinthians 5:7).

Ezekiel knew that God was the Lord (Ezekiel 6:7, 13). Daniel knew that there was a God in Heaven (Daniel 2:28). And then there is the case of Job (Job 19:23-26). In spite of all that Job lost, he confidently declared that he knew that his “redeemer liveth” in v. 25.

Most of the book of Job is cycles of speeches. One of Job’s friends speaks (Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar), and Job responds. This statement of Job’s occurs during the second cycle of speeches, in response to Bildad.

I. The Case Of Job And What He Shows Us

- A. Job tells us about his plight in 19:1-22.
 - 1. Job cries out in despair in response his three friends (vv. 1-6).
 - a) Job believed he had no recourse and no court of justice to be heard (v. 7). His three closest friends on earth had turned deaf ears on his misery.
 - b) Nothing in the world can compare to having to simply eat your misery and have no vent for it. Whenever I read the book of Job, I cannot help but think this was one of his greatest miseries.
 - 2. Job saw nothing but misery on misery ahead of him (v. 8). He could not see any hope that soon his suffering would end (v. 10).
 - 3. Not only had God made him suffer (as he saw it), but all of his friends, family, and acquaintances had abandoned him (vv. 13-19).
 - a) He begged his servant for help, only to receive silence in return (v. 16).
 - b) His breath was offensive to his wife (v. 17).
 - c) Even his young children despised him and condemned him (v. 18).
 - d) All of his close friends abhorred him and those whom he loved turned against him (v. 19).
- B. Job desperately needed compassion, but he knew he would not receive it (vv. 20-22).
- C. But contemplate the equal strength of Job’s conviction (vv. 23-27).
 - 1. These are some of my favorite words in all of the Bible, because they state the absoluteness of faith.
 - 2. You do not write something down with pen, and you surely do not engrave any words on a rock that you do not want to be seen and be read by all people for the rest of time. But, that is exactly what Job declared concerning his undying belief.
 - 3. He knew that His redeemer lived (v. 25). He knew that after his skin is destroyed, in his flesh he would see God (v. 26).
 - 4. Verse 27 reminds me of the last, hardest hammer blow on the “iron pen” in the stone monument to Job’s life and faith.
 - a) The definitive nature of these words — his mind is made up.
 - b) Can you not imagine the steam rising from the devil’s ears as he heard this? He had beaten Job down so thoroughly that Job despaired of his own life. Yet Job’s faith had not been altered in the slightest.

- c) How thoroughly the devil had failed! After all of the misery to which he had subjected Job, the man still longed to see God. Yes, far from seeing His God as an enemy, Job's heart yearned within him.

II. Important Lessons From Job

- A. Job teaches us about the nature of human suffering.
 1. God created humans with bodies of flesh, brains of matter, eyes to see, senses to experience, and emotions to feel.
 2. It is simply a fact that these faculties of human existence can be affected positively and negatively (Romans 12:15; Philippians 4:4; 2 Timothy 3:12).
 3. Whenever we suffer, we ought to remember that we have at least two companions — Job, who went through the valley of pain before us, and Jesus Christ when He died on the cross for our sins.
 4. We also must remember, like Job did, that when we struggle with pain and suffering that God cares, and we will someday behold Him (Matthew 10:30; 1 Peter 5:7; 1 John 3:1-3).
- B. Job teaches us how to properly manage grief, sorrow, anger, and rage.
 1. There is no way to read the book of Job and not be stunned by the depth of Job's despair, but he did not sin (Job 2:10).
 2. However, it was not very long until Job pointed his quaking finger at God as the source of his suffering (Job 6:4; 9:17-18).
 3. But, Job's iron-strong indelible declaration from our text indicates that he did not impugn God with wrong. He believed God had brought this suffering on him, but he did not know why.
 4. For all of his pain, emotional devastation, confusion, and even anger, Job believed fervently in the consoling love of God.
 - a) He never lost the big picture of God and His righteousness. He knew the truth of this would be witnessed by Job in the end
 - b) Nor did he allow himself to become filled with anger and bitterness so that he cursed God.
 - (1) Disappointment in people must not translate into disappointment or loss of faith in God. His love and care remains true and constant. The love people have toward you may be weak and unstable, even phony or blatantly hateful, but they are not God.
 - (2) God sent His Son for you when no one else would, and He gives aid to you when others may not care to do so. When others let you down, it would be foolish to take your frustration and disappointment out on the very One who will be your friend, comfort, peace, and hope.
- C. Job teaches us that all hardship is only temporary.
 1. Paul stated the fact of truth for all time in 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, but Job demonstrated it in his life and his responses.
 2. Job knew that what Paul said was so — this too shall pass. Like Peter, we will all "put off this my tabernacle" (2 Peter 1:14; cp. 1 Chronicles 29:15).
- D. Job teaches us to keep our eyes on Heaven.
 1. Job demonstrated the truth of great biblical texts in his life (Romans 8:24-25; Hebrews 4:9, 11). When everything was good, Job knew that God was to be

blessed for it. When he suffered, he knew that Heaven awaited him, when he would see the Lord face to face. This was his consolation and hope.

2. Human suffering can be profound. Anguish can consume our hearts. But we must not let it be so; we yearn for Heaven (Hebrews 10:34).

Conclusion. If we “curse God and die” as Job’s wife recommended, then we have lost everything. On the other hand, if we can control our grief and sorrow, understanding that hardship is only temporary, and fix our eyes toward Heaven, we can navigate the troubled waters of life.

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