

I Know that My Redeemer Lives

Job 19:26-27

1

26 “Even after my skin is destroyed, Yet from my flesh I shall see God; **27** Whom I myself shall behold, And whom my eyes will see and not another. My heart faints within me!

There is a truism that cannot be avoided, man is born to die. We try, we spend thousands in the course of a lifetime battling disease, trauma, old age just so that we can live a few moments longer. Man has a survival instinct that is strong. We here of stories where a wild animal caught in a trap will chew off its own foot to get free. In April of 2003, Aron Ralston, an adventurer, was deep underground in the deserts of Utah when a boulder crushed against his arm and trapped him. For 127 hours he lay trapped, no hope of rescue. Then his survival instinct took over and he amputated his own arm so he could get free. The stories of parents that sacrifice themselves to save their children are many. The mother who shielded her son in the 2016 Orlando shooting may be the latest. This instinct to survive is one of man’s strongest. Why is that? What is it about this life that it is so difficult to let go of. I don’t believe that you have to have the wisdom of Solomon or the genius of any great philosopher to understand this desire to cling to life. I believe that it’s the uncertainty and or fear of the unknown that drives man to cling to this life so hard. I understand that many feel that the joys of this life or the love of family and friends are things to be clung to and I don’t think I can argue with those thoughts. But this discussion isn’t necessarily about the merits of this life, rather it’s about the life that awaits.

Job is talking about death. He understands that this body is mortal, the process of breaking down begins almost as soon as we are born. He says even after his skin is destroyed He will see God. What kept Job faithful to God in the face of all the difficulties he faced in his life? It wasn’t clinging to this world and the blessings of it. It was looking to a future when the difficulties of this life can no longer bring us down. Do you see what he says?

2 *I shall see God; 27 Whom I myself shall behold, And whom my eyes will see and not another. My heart faints within me!*

Job looks forward to the time when he will see God and he can’t wait until then, but he understands that to be with his creator, he must leave this life behind. But here is the real impact of his statement...

3 **25** “As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, And at the last He will take His stand on the earth.

This is probably one of the most important things we can get from the book of Job. In the face of all his losses, troubles, pain, and agony, Job put his trust in the knowledge that his Redeemer lives. Job says...

4 *“I know my Redeemer lives”*

What a statement of faith that is. For Job, knowing that his God is real and living far outweighed any difficulties this world held for him.

That is faith. In the verses just prior to this statement look at what Job says...

Job 19:23-24

5

23 “Oh that my words were written! Oh that they were inscribed in a book! **24** “That with an iron stylus and lead They were engraved in the rock forever!

Job’s impassioned plea is that his words are forever engraved so that all can come to know that their...

6

Redeemer lives

Death comes to all of us, Job faced his with the certain knowledge and trust that his faith rested upon a living Redeemer.

Is this a messianic reference? There is some discussion on that point, though I think it obvious. Job’s Redeemer lives, as does every man’s. Jesus Christ is the redeemer of all men, regardless of when they lived. The blood of Christ flows both ways from the cross, backwards and forwards cleansing the sin of all the faithful. Job’s Redeemer lived.

As we look at Job’s statement there are some ideas that I would like to look at...

7

- 1) Descent into death
- 2) Trust in the comfort of the Redeemer
- 3) Look to the future

Job gives us an interesting look into the life of all men, or maybe more accurately into what all who take a breath as man will ultimately face. And not all the creams, medicines, healthy eating, exercise, or anything else will forestall it from occurring. That is where we start with Job’s words...

8

- 1) Descent into death

Not to be morbid, but this discussion begins with death. It is a sad, sometimes horrific thing, that all men must face...

Heb 9:27

9

27 And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once

People that are supposed to know tell us that the grieving process is an absolute necessity. But the grieving process is for the living, not the dead. The dead have nothing further to do with this world nor, at least as far as I can ascertain from the scriptures, are they allowed to.

Luke 16:27-28, 31

10

27 And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father's house— **28** for I have five brothers—in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'

31 But he said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'"

People have such a misunderstanding of what death is. They get so wrapped up in what they consider to be this great unknown thing called death, that they can't see beyond their own fears and superstitions. This is not to minimize in any way the grief that is felt when someone passes but rather it speaks to what Job was saying...

Job 19:26-27

11

26 “Even after my skin is destroyed, Yet from my flesh I shall see God; **27** Whom I myself shall behold, And whom my eyes will see and not another. My heart faints within me! **25** “As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, And at the last He will take His stand on the earth.

Notice the progression of chapter 19 here...

12

Job complains of the cruelty of his friends, **v. 1-5**
Job pathetically laments his own sufferings, **v. 6-12**
He speaks of being forsaken by his servants, friends, relatives, and even his wife, **v. 13-19**
Job details his sufferings in an affecting manner, calls upon his friends to pity him, and earnestly wishes that his speeches may be recorded, **v. 20-24**
Job expresses his hope in a future resurrection, **v. 25-27**
Job warns his persecutors to desist, lest they fall under God's judgments, **v. 28-29.**

Regardless of the circumstances that had brought Job to this point in his life, Job is thinking that possibly it is his time to pass. In that thought, he expresses his faith and trust that...

13

“The Lord will be his Redeemer”

Death separates man from this world but not from existence. Job, even in his distress over the events that had befallen him, knew that there was something after this life is over, and he put his trust in God.

That's the message we need to get from Job. Where we do place our trust? In who or what do we choose to have faith? Death has been called the great equalizer because it doesn't matter if you are rich, poor, big, small, famous or infamous, in the final analysis, death wins. Friends mourn and remember the person you were, that is as it should be. The body is buried but the soul continues on. That is what Job is speaking of in our text. The skin decays, but the eyes still see. I don't know if that means the literal eye, as it decays with the body, or if this is talking about the awareness, the consciousness of man, either way, it fits. Where man in this life sees death as the unknown, when we pass from this world we will know. We will know God in all His glory and majesty. As we follow Job into his descent into the grave, or at least what he was prepared for, we must understand that that is the same fate of all, the question is whether we, like Job, have put our faith and trust in...

14

“The Redeemer”

This leads us into our next point...

15

2) Trust in the comfort of the Redeemer

Job states categorically that he knows his Redeemer lives. The word Redeemer here, comes from the Hebrew...

Ga°al; OT:1350,

16

"to redeem, deliver, avenge, act as a kinsman." This word group is used 90 times, chiefly in the Pentateuch, Psalms, Isaiah, and Ruth. The root appears to be almost exclusively Hebrew, the only cognate being an Amorite proper name.

The duty of the kinsman, or "gaal", was this: if an Israelite had alienated his estate, as in the case of Naomi and Ruth; or the inheritance which had belonged to a family, had passed away through poverty, it was the gaal's business, the redeemer's business, to pay the price as the next of kin, and to buy back the heritage. Boaz stood in that relation to Ruth. The analogy that Job is using here is that the soul is lost when sin separates man from God. This is where it gets so difficult for many people. They are so worried about the body that they don't realize that the body doesn't matter other than that the soul will be judged by the deeds done in the body. The soul then is lost to sin and needs the kinsman, the redeemer, to buy it back from sin. There is only one redeemer that is capable of doing that...

1 John 2:1-2

17

1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; *2* and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

Jesus Christ is the Redeemer, He paid the price for man's sin and shed His blood as the propitiation, the price paid. Now remember what Christ says in...

John 8:12

18

12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

Jesus is the light that shines the way for man to find peace with God, trust in His teaching, and hope in God's promises. Job placed his trust in the Lord, and even if he didn't know the Jesus of the New Testament, he knew the Lord was his redeemer and that his Redeemer lived.

An interesting extension of this analogy is that if the gaal, the redeemer, was not able to redeem by price, then the responsibility was to redeem by power. Thus, when Lot was carried away captive by the four kings, Abraham summoned his own hired servants, and the servants of all his friends, and went out against the kings of the East, and brought back Lot and the captives of Sodom. Now, our Lord Jesus Christ not only paid the price of sin with His blood also...

Mark 3:26-27

19

26 If Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but he is finished!
27 But no one can enter the strong man's house and plunder his property unless he first binds the strong man, and then he will plunder his house.

Jesus, like Abraham, went to the house of Satan, the grave, and in His resurrection defeated the hold that Satan had over death. Death is no longer the enemy. Death should no longer be feared.

That is the beauty of the legacy of Jesus Christ. He is the redeemer. He paid the price for all man's sin before and after the cross. That is the power of His sacrifice. That is the power of God manifested in...

Rom 1:1-4

20

1 Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, **2** which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, **3** concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, **4** who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,

The power that all men can partake of...

Rom 6:4

21

4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

There is our last point...

22

3) Look to the future

Job not only knew that the Redeemer lived, but he looked forward to the time when he would stand with his Redeemer. Some might argue about whether Job was referring to when Christ would return in the second coming or if he was referring to the time when Jesus would walk the Earth. Quite frankly, I don't think it either. To assume that Job had a knowledge of the second coming of Christ or that God would send Jesus to Earth is to assume that Job had a knowledge that no one, not even the angels, had at that time. No, I think Job is speaking from his heart, his faith, his trust that there is more to man than just this life. And Job put his trust in the almighty power of the Lord. Job had the hope of an eternity with God...

23

“His Redeemer Lived”

1 Peter 1:17-20

24

17 If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth; **18** knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, **19** but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

Ultimately each of us must ask ourselves...

25

Does MY Redeemer Live ?

He does IF, like Job, you have put your faith and trust in the Lord.