

MY REDEEMER LIVES!

Scripture Reading: Job. 19:25-27

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

Introduction:

When I began the book of Job, I had told you that this book was not written by one person but many over long span of time. Job's story may have floated before Moses, but it evolved over long period of time. We could see part of Solomon's wisdom, Babylonian captivity time, and the Scripture passage we read may even suggest Christ's period. We will come across from a total of hopelessness to great hope in this chapter. This passage we read is the best part of Job's speech. But before we jump to that passage, let us just look at one part of Bildad's speech in chapter 18.

Bildad's speech.

Job 18:3,4 3 Why are we regarded as beasts, As stupid in your eyes? 4 O you who tear yourself in your anger— For your sake is the earth to be abandoned, Or the rock to be moved from its place?

Now the friends of Job were mad. They felt that Job was trying to make them look like fools. They felt that Job was speaking wisdom contrary to God's ordained truth that was laid down from the foundation of the world. They felt that Job was changing the whole wisdom of God and showing a world upside down, moved out of its place. They also thought that Job wanted the world according to what he wanted rather than going along with the ordained wisdom of God! Actually, Bildad used the same words Job used in 14:18 and twisted it to blame Job.

Now let us focus on Job's speech in chapter 19.

*Job. 19: 7-10. Behold, I cry, Violence! but I get no answer;
I shout for help, but there is no justice.
8 He has walled up my way so that I cannot pass,
And He has put darkness on my paths.
9 He has stripped my honor from me
And removed the crown from my head.
10 He breaks me down on every side, and I am gone; And He has uprooted my hope
like a tree.*

Before all the tragedies, Job was blessed. The glory of the Lord surrounded him and protected him as a hedge. His hand was covering Him. But when the Lord took His hand off, devil came and he built an airtight hedge around Job, and started crushing his spirit, and stripping everything he had, including his health. He walled up, and broke Job down from every angle. But Job did not realize that it was devil that was doing it, and not God. He blamed God for everything!

Job 19:11-13 11 He has also kindled His anger against me

And considered me as His enemy.

12 His troops come together,

And build up their way against me

And camp around my tent.

13 He has removed my brothers far from me,

And my acquaintances are completely estranged from me.

Job thought God became his enemy for some mysterious reason! He took away his children, and his acquaintances. But God is actually love, and He tries to seek and save us even if we become His enemies. While we were yet enemies, Christ died for us. How much more He will do for us when we come closer?

Job 19:14-19. 14 My relatives have failed,

And my intimate friends have forgotten me.

15 Those who live in my house and my maids consider me a stranger.

I am a foreigner in their sight.

16 I call to my servant, but he does not answer;

I have to implore him with my mouth.

17 My breath is offensive to my wife,

And I am loathsome to my own brothers.

18 Even young children despise me;

I rise up and they speak against me.

19 All my associates abhor me,

And those I love have turned against me.

Job's relatives were gone also. and his intimate friends had abandoned him. His own maids, and household, consider him as strangers! This is heights of rejection! His own servants did not even respond to his call! He had to virtually beg them to attend to his needs! Job's breath is offensive to his wife, his own brothers reject him, the young children despise him, and when he rises up to correct them, they talk back boldly. All his loved ones turned away from them. But Job never realized that God's promise is never broken. He will never leave us nor forsake us.

Job 19:20-22. 20 My bone clings to my skin and my flesh,

And I have escaped only by the skin of my teeth.

21 Pity me, pity me, O you my friends,

For the hand of God has struck me.

22 Why do you persecute me as God does, and are not satisfied with my flesh?

Job had lost so much weight; his skin was sticking tight to his bones. His skin had become so thin, he uses a phrase, which has become very popular now, I escaped only by the skin of my teeth! It means in modern terms, I escaped narrowly.

Job begs for his friends' sympathy and cries out, pity me, pity me, Oh you my friends, because he thinks that the hand of God struck him.

The next passage is very meaningful, and very relevant to all Christians. But many scholars strongly feel that these words were not spoken by Job, but some editor has used Job to reveal his theological view. I told you to remember the last passage of *Job 17:13-16*.

*13 If I look for Sheol as my home,
I make my bed in the darkness.
14 If I call to the pit, You are my father .
To the worm, my mother and my sister ;
15 Where now is my hope?
And who regards my hope?
16 Will it go down with me to Sheol?
Shall we together go down into the dust?"*

This was Job's perspective throughout the book about death. He did not have much hope beyond death. He thought that his hope would join him in the dust. But he was displaying a glimmer of hope here and there. Scholar Ellicott describes it succinctly. Let me quote it.

"In Job's own speeches we have, as early as Job 9:32-35. his longing for a daysman to come between himself and God.

In Job 16:19, he affirms that his witness is in the high heavens;

In Job 16:21, of the same chapter he longs for an advocate to plead his cause.

In Job 17:3 he calls upon God to be surety for him. Therefore, he has already recognized God as his judge, his umpire, his advocate, his witness, and surety. Here, then, he goes a step further in expression, if not by implication, and declares his knowledge that he has a Goel or Redeemer. This goel was the name given to the next of kin whose duty it was to redeem, ransom, or avenge one who had fallen into debt or bondage, or had been slain in a family feud. In Ruth, for instance, the Goel is he who has to marry the widow of his relative, and to continue his name. The various and conditional functions, then, of this Goel, Job is assured, God will take upon Himself for him; He will avenge his quarrel." Quote ends. (by Ellicott. Job 19: 23-27. Bible hub.com)

But now we see totally different scene. It is full of hope! Job's hope is not gone to dust with him anymore!

*Job. 19:23-27. 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!
25“As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives,
And at the last He will take His stand on the earth.
26“Even after my skin is destroyed,
Yet from my flesh I shall see God;
27Whom I myself shall behold,
And whom my eyes will see and not another.
My heart faints within me!

Job wanted his words to be edged on stone. What are those words? I know that my redeemer lives! This is a universal fact! God, our redeemer lives forever. He is eternal. He is the Alpha, and Omega, the beginning, and the end! He is the Redeemer, who can save us at any time. Is anything too hard for Him? No, nothing!

He will stand at the last day for judgement. This may have been written during Daniel time or after Daniel. But this is integral part of Christian faith. Jesus Christ our Lord will come one day and redeem His people and judge the living and the dead!

Job says that from his flesh he shall see God. Does he mean while he was alive or dead? He says very clearly, myself shall behold, and whom my eyes will see and not another. I think, Job is basically saying that he will still see God even though his body totally disintegrates and becomes dust!

Conclusion:

1. The presence of God is so crucial. Without it, the hedge disappears and we will be prone to attack by the devil.
2. While we were yet enemies, Christ died for us. How much more He will do for us when we come closer?
3. Even if all our loved ones and acquaintances forsake us, God will never leave us nor forsake us.
4. Our hope in God comes only through trusting in Him always. Even if we feel hopeless, we must cling to Him.
5. My redeemer always lives to save me. He will come one day to take me where He is.
6. Neither death nor life, nothing can separate us from this Goel, the Christ!

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11.8.20
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