

## My Redeemer Lives

Job 19:1-29

- A. Job criticizes his friends for their relentless, baseless, shameless attacks against him **1-6**
1. He confesses there may be sin in his life, but they tormented this righteous man by accusing him of great sin
    - a. Job admits that his friends were right: based on a common understanding of God's justice, he looked guilty
    - b. Looking guilty though is not the same thing as being guilty, and Job continued to maintain his innocence
    - c. Even if he had sinned though, it was sin against God and not against them, thus of no concern to them
    - d. If he had gone astray he had made the proper sacrifices, repented, and had a clear conscience
  2. They were not standing with him as friends to strengthen him, but as judges over him to condemn him
    - a. Despite knowing of no sin in Job that deserved this kind of suffering, they still insisted he had sinned
    - b. Without any evidence, they questioned his character and tormented him with their accusations of sin
    - c. We grew up hearing '... but words will never hurt me,' but that is a lie; their words crushed Job
    - d. He did not complain about having lost all his great wealth, but about the ruin of his good reputation
    - e. To a blameless and upright man, this is a greater loss than being stripped of everything that he owned
    - f. Even if he had sinned, his friends should have been acting redemptively rather than judgmentally
      - 1) Our goal with a fallen saint isn't to stand in God's place as judge, but to gently lead him back to God
- B. Without offering any reason the Lord punished him and left him no way to defend himself **7-12**
1. Job truly did not know why he was suffering as he was and the Lord ignored his plea for an answer
    - a. The problem was not that he had not dealt with sin as he ought to have, but that God had wronged him
    - b. Sin that he should have forgiven was still being held against him with no clue as to how to clear it up
    - c. He cried out for help, for the just Judge to reveal his crimes, but he was left in ignorance to suffer
  2. The Lord seemed determined to cut off every avenue of hope for Job, take away all that would comfort him
    - a. It was as though the Lord wanted Job to suffer without any way of making things right with him again
      - 1) God had been a pillar of light to Israel so they would know where to go, but left Job in the dark
      - 2) Tho he desperately wanted to speak with the Lord, to know what to do, God made sure he could not
    - b. It was not just that all his possessions were gone, but so too was his honor, his reputation as a good man
      - 1) All that marked him as a ruler among men, one with wisdom to lead others, was stripped away
    - c. Job had said there was hope for a tree that was cut down (14:7), but he had been torn down and uprooted
      - 1) As he considered his future, there was no reason to hope for he had no roots left to nourish him
      - 2) He was deprived of family, friends, resources, a good name, all that could be used to build a life
    - d. Before his testing began Job would have thought of himself as being on good terms with God, friends
      - 1) At this point he concluded that the Lord counted him among his enemies (tho wrong in so doing)
      - 2) He felt like he was under siege, assaulted on every side by the forces God had sent against him
      - 3) But he was no great city armed and fortified to resist the Lord; God was laying siege to a mere tent
      - 4) How could there be any hope when one man stripped of all he had was under attack by all God's troops
- C. He was left alone in his suffering, abandoned by everyone who could have offered comfort **13-20**
1. God said at the very beginning that it was not good for man to be alone, yet he forced Job into isolation
    - a. From Job's perspective his loneliness when being alone made a bad situation worse was God's doing
    - b. Mockers joke that at least in hell they will have their friends to help them enjoy their gloom together
    - c. The picture Job paints here is a more accurate portrayal of hell, a place men are left to suffer all alone
  2. Those who were closest to him, who he would have depended on most heavily for help, deserted him
    - a. His brothers, his closest relatives, were nowhere around having been removed by the Lord
    - b. Those who were still nearby, including his wife, avoided him because they found him to be offensive
    - c. Physically repulsive and socially embarrassing as one judged by God, they did not want to be around him
  3. When family fails us we naturally turn to friends for a shoulder to lean on, but they too disappointed him
    - a. His wider group of acquaintances had severed ties with him, and his closer friends had forgotten him
      - 1) In ways that were subtle and not so subtle they let it be known they did not want him around
    - b. Even his best, most intimate friends despised and detested him, turning against him in his hour of need
      - 1) They knew his character well, yet at the first sign of failure, they wanted nothing to do with him
      - 2) Job had become a matter of embarrassment for those who once saw his friendship as a good thing
  4. This isolation was complete for even those who knew him as a great man only from a distance spurned him
    - a. House guests who had enjoyed his hospitality saw him as an alien, one not to be associated with
    - b. His servants who had once treated him with respect now refused to answer his summons to serve him

- 1) Even when he begged, his servant did not feel compelled by either duty or kindness him to help
- c. Even the children had heard such scorn from adults for Job they ridiculed rather than respected him
5. Left to fend for himself when he had no strength to do so, Job was reduced to skin and bones
  - a. He may have still been alive, but only barely so, and with little to no hope it would get any better
- D. Despite all this Job still believed that his Redeemer would make fellowship with God a reality again **21-29**
  1. His problem was that God had struck him and his friends had no compassion to help **21-22**
    - a. Of course the Lord was involved in what he was suffering, for Satan could not have acted on his own
      - 1) Nevertheless, we know what Job did not, ie, that it was Satan's hand striking him **Job 1:11,12**
      - 2) Satan struck him because he delights in seeing the saints suffer; God allowed it to strengthen faith
    - b. Job did not understand why God would do this, but understood even less why his friends tormented him
      - 1) He pleads with them to stop their attacks, to have pity and stop crushing him with their words
      - 2) Why could they not see the pain they were causing and sympathize rather than callously argue with him
      - 3) Why did they pursue him, seeking to wound him, rather than take pity as friends would normally do
      - 4) Even when a brother falls into sin our role is not to judge him, but to bear his burden and restore him
  2. He longed for vindication so that everyone going forward would know his innocence **23-24**
    - a. These verses tell us two things Job believed: he did not think he had long to live, and he was innocent
    - b. He had already argued his case that he was innocent of any wrongdoing worthy of what he was suffering
      - 1) His friends had heard him but their theological system did not allow for the suffering of the righteous
      - 2) Divine justice as he understood it was flawed in his case, but everyone condemned him as guilty
    - c. Job's words here indicate he believes his time on earth is short, that he will die being seen as a great sinner
      - 1) He therefore wants his words, his defense of his righteousness, to be permanently recorded
      - 2) He may die being judged a wicked man, but he wants the world to hear his side of the story
      - 3) Perhaps the years would be kind to him and with hindsight and these words he would be exonerated
      - 4) The hope of every saint is that their life will be a testimony to the glory and the grace of God
  3. He believed this vindication would be provided by his Redeemer, One about whom he knew three things **25-27**
    - a. The first thing Job states that he knew was that his Redeemer lived
      - 1) A redeemer was tied to you by covenant, usually a relative, who stood for you when you were wronged
        - a) If you were murdered, he saw to it that your murderer was punished (Num 35:16-28)
        - b) If your share in the promised land was under threat, he safeguarded it (Lev 25:25-28)
        - c) If your widow was childless, he gave her a child
        - d) In every way he stood for you when you could not stand for yourself
      - 2) One illustration of this principle is in the book of Ruth, where Boaz acts as Naomi and Ruth's *go'el*
        - a) As kinsman-redeemer he cared for the widow Naomi and became for Ruth the husband she needed
      - 3) Job believed this Redeemer *lives*, not that he was alive, but like God he lives for he has life in himself
        - a) He was one that even if Job did die, he knew this Redeemer would right the wrongs Job suffered
        - b) That one who is divine should stand for Job before God sound unlikely to many on the surface
          1. For those who accept that God is both our Judge and Redeemer, Father and Son, it does not
    - b. The second thing that Job knew was that his Redeemer would stand upon the earth
      - 1) Even if he had his wish that his words be recorded permanently on stone, they would be a silent witness
      - 2) What he hoped for was his living Redeemer standing among men who would testify to his innocence
      - 3) His Redeemer would not cease his labors for Job when Job died, but would continue forever
      - 4) Of course that is our hope also, that our Redeemer's work in our behalf follows us after the grave
    - c. The third thing that Job knew was that he would see his Redeemer with his own eyes
      - 1) The view of the afterlife in the OT is largely that of a shadowy world with few notes of joy
      - 2) What Job knew was that when he saw his Redeemer after death it wouldn't be as a disembodied spirit
      - 3) This was no minor consolation prize for Job, but was something that he yearned to see
  4. He warns his friends who have no room for grace in their theology the end of that thinking is judgment **28-29**
    - a. Job's friends pursued him, hounding him with their arguments to prove that he was guilty of great sin
    - b. They could not conceive of a righteous man suffering or of a sinful man God would not punish
    - c. Everything for them was a simple equation: good works bring blessing, bad works bring punishment
    - d. There was no room for God's forgiving grace that could cover even a multitude of sins under his love
    - e. Job may not have understood it as we do, but he knew there was hope when the Redeemer acted for man
    - f. He also knew those who had no room for a Redeemer and grace could end up facing justice without mercy
    - g. For his sake and for theirs, he asks that they learn about mercy for his present and for their future