

**Job 19: 21-27; “I Know that My Redeemer Lives”, A Communion Sermon
delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall on Easter Sunday, April 5th, 2015,
in the Afternoon Worship Service.**

This dear saint of God, Job, was in the midst of the greatest trial of his life, and he was still able to confess when his trial was at its worst, certain truths which he knew would sustain him during that critical time. He knew a truth which we also must remember if we are to face the trials that we are going through, so that God will be glorified and our hearts will be fortified to endure and overcome our greatest temptations. The truths which fortified Job’s heart at the most critical time were these: 1st – He knew that His Redeemer lived. 2nd – He knew that He would come again and raise all of the dead. And 3rd – Job yearned for the blessed day when He would see Christ with his physical eyes. These are the same truths that we should fortify our hearts with in our greatest trials so that in the midst of them we might even find our greatest joys because of the greater revelation of Christ to our souls. We will think together about these strengthening truths before we partake of the Lord’s Supper.

1st of all – Job’s heart was fortified because He knew that His Redeemer lived.

He says here in verse 21 – “Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends, for the hand of God has struck me!” “Why do you persecute me as God does, and are not satisfied with my flesh?” “Oh, that my words were written!” “Oh, that they were inscribed in a book!” “That they were engraved on a rock with an iron pen and lead, forever!” “For I know that my Redeemer lives...” The context of these verses is that as Job was going through this most difficult trial of his life, that his friends thought that he was suffering these things because he was a hypocrite; that really he was not a man of integrity, or how could these things that he was going through be happening to him. They thought that God always rewards righteous conduct with blessings; not with the destruction of their children and their property and their health.

But unbeknownst to them, and unbeknownst to Job himself, something was going on behind the scenes, in the world of spirits, where no man can see clearly to do anything about what takes place there; there was a tremendous spiritual interaction that was taking place between God and the Devil. It says in chapter 1, verse 6 - “There was a day when the sons of God (that is – the angelic host) came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them.” And the Lord asked Satan, this fallen angelic spirit, who had successfully tempted Eve at the beginning of the world and brought about the fall of Adam as a result; God asked him where he came from and where he was going, and He received this answer: Satan said that he was a spirit who went to and fro upon the earth, walking back and forth upon it. He did not say what it was that he was seeking to do in all of his roaming, but if we were to look over at 1st Peter 5: 8 we would find that he “roams about like a lion seeking whom he may devour”.

But let us understand that it was God who initiated this conversation with him. It is God who knows when our faith is great enough, and mature enough to undergo testing, at whatever level we are at in our understanding of what our duties are to Him. The Apostle James says in James 1, verse 2 – “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.” “But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.” We read these words, and we understand neither how we can be joyful, or how we learn patience. It is because our Redeemer, our Lord Jesus Christ, lives. It was God who said to Satan: “Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?”

You see, God ordains all things which happen in the life of a Christian. He ordained beforehand all of the things which would happen to this Old Testament man Job. God knew that Job was a man of integrity. He knew that Job was a man who was trying to do what was right in every situation of his life. God knows whether you dear Christian are making progress in your faith and what it will

take for you to become a person of integrity, more like your Lord Jesus Christ. God knows exactly what kind of grace it will take for you to become the kind of person that can glorify Him and love other people. Sometimes, unfortunately, a Christian may think that they already know everything that they need to know in order to live their life to the glory of God, and yet they do not yet know what God wants them to know, or what He would have them to learn. And so, God must teach them.

Even such an eminently godly man as Job was, still needed to learn things about God, and other people, and how to interact with them. And we must realize that God holds all things in His hands. God knew that as He led Job through this difficult situation, whereby he would glorify Him, that by giving him the grace of Christ, that Job would be able to overcome the schemes of the devil. God knew this even before Job went through this, the greatest trial of his life, because He knew that Job's Redeemer lived. He knew that He would send the Lord Jesus, His only-begotten Son, into the world, at a certain time in history, and that all people, either looking forward to that coming, or back at that coming, would be saved. Even people who are saved have many things to learn. And Satan will always tempt and test the integrity of the people of God to see and know for himself that their faith is genuine, or whether he can get them to fall into sin or unbelief.

And so Satan said, Does Job fear God for nothing?" "Have you not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side?" "You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land." "But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face." Now, we know for a fact that God gave permission to put Job's integrity to a test by His allowing Satan to do things to Job which Job could do nothing to prevent. Awful things like bringing a great wind to knock down the roof of the house where Job's children were having a meal together, and all of his 10 children died. Awful things like the fire of God falling from heaven and burning up the sheep and the servants. Awful things like letting Satan strike Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of head.

And Job's initial reaction to this onslaught of providentially ordered woe was to worship. Job 1, verse 20, says: "Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped." "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there." "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." "In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong. What was just as bad as losing his children and possessions and health, was his losing the confidence of his wife and friends. When, after the first assault of Satan, Satan demanded permission to strike Job with sore boils, Job's wife gave up her confidence in him and said: "Do you still hold fast your integrity?" "Curse God and die!" "But he said to her, 'You speak as one of the foolish women speaks.'" "Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" "In all of this Job did not sin with his lips."

Job's friends, when they came to see him, they made an appointment to see him, and when they got there, they did not recognize him. And they lifted up their voices and wept, and each one tore his robe and sprinkled dust on his head toward heaven. They sat down with him on the ground seven day and seven night, and no one spoke a word with him, for they saw his grief was very great. This was a good beginning, but it did not continue long. For they had drawn the wrong conclusion about Job. They spend the next 14 chapters, after Job had related his desire to die, in trying to convince him that if he would simply come out and confess his sins, that he would once again come to know God's favor and blessing. In this, they erred greatly. For Job, although not sinless, was indeed a man of integrity. Indeed Job spends from Chapter 5 to Chapter 33 defending his moral integrity, even though he was not believed by his friends.

In the middle of all this, Job comes forth with these words of our text. "Why do you persecute me as God does, and are not satisfied with my flesh?" Oh, that my words were written down and inscribed in a book, "For I know that my Redeemer lives". This is what Job knew would sustain him when all the other people who had formerly loved him and had been close to him, had turned against him. He knew that His Redeemer lived. He lived then in the time that Job lived. The Lord

Jesus was the Son of the Father from all eternity. In eternity past God begot His Son; brought Him forth and set Him apart to His eternal purposes in the Counsel of Redemption. In the fullness of time He sent Him forth, born of a woman, born under the law, that He might redeem all those who were under the law. The word in the Hebrew for Redeemer is Goel; a kinsman Redeemer, one who had been there in his life, for many years His Redeemer; watching over his life spiritually and physically.

The One whom Job knew, was one of the Persons of the Divine Trinity, the one who would eventually come into this world, and “crush the serpent’s head”. Job knew the true story of Adam and Eve. He knew the true story of Cain and Abel. Job knew the doctrine of the Trinity. “Let Us make man in our image and likeness.” All of the Persons of the Divine Trinity were involved in the creation of the world and man. And Job had heard and knew of “the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day”, after Adam and Eve had fallen into sin, and plunged our whole race into sin by their sinful actions. He knew that He Himself had believed in the promise of God; that He would redeem a people for His own possession, through “the Seed of the Woman”. He believed in Jesus Christ, even though He did not know the Redeemer’s name, or exactly what it would take for Him, at the cross, to redeem him, a sinner, back, from his slavery and bondage to sin. But by faith He received the future atonement. And he had come to know, on that basis, that this Redeemer lived. For he knew the work of the Holy Spirit in his heart.

He knew from the sacrifices of Cain and Abel that God cannot be worshiped by the works of man’s hands, but rather only by the offering in righteousness which could only come from the killing of a sinless sacrifice. This He linked in his mind to the incarnation and perfect obedience of a coming Redeemer, the Savior of all those who would trust in Him and in His work of sacrifice which would purchase the free gift of eternal life for him and all who would believe. As he thought upon this truth, he also came to believe that even as his Redeemer had always lived, from all of eternity, so the wicked works of men or the Devil against Him would never overcome Him. He would therefore have believed that even if this Redeemer were to die himself, as a sacrifice for sins, in a much greater sense than Able, He would be raised from the dead. And so we can, and we should believe that in this statement of Job’s, that he was believing in Christ’s resurrection. “I know that my Redeemer lives”. He saw by faith Christ’s day; he saw by faith Christ’s sacrifice and death, and He saw by faith Christ’s resurrection.

This was the truth that fortified Job’s heart as he fully entered into his sufferings of being misunderstood by his friends and his wife, and as he thought that it would be better to die than to live. Let me ask you now, my dear friends, whether this is the truth that fortifies your heart in all of your trials: I know that My Redeemer lives? When you are suffering, being misunderstood and not knowing the outcome of all of your sufferings and sorrows, when you have tried to do the right thing and find yourself being accused of being a hypocrite, when your conscience bears witness that you are not, will you not remember and declare it: “I know that my Redeemer lives”.

2nd – Job knew that his Redeemer would come again and raise all of the dead.

And this truth fortified his heart. Verse 25 says: “For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God.” I believe that in this statement Job is showing us that he was a prophet of God. Really, special revelation had to have been given to Job to know these truths. Oh, I know that Job had probably heard of the prophecy of Enoch, the seventh from Adam, which is found written down for us in Jude, verse 14: “Behold the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment upon all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.” Job had no doubt heard this prophecy. But he really adds to it here. The Redeemer will stand upon the earth in that day, and there will also be the resurrection of all of the dead, both righteous and wicked, all on that same glorious Day. This truth fortified Job’s heart because he knew that in that Day he would be vindicated before the whole watching world; even if in the day

that he lived, his own righteousness was not being vindicated. He would entrust the whole matter to His Redeemer, who would be able to judge righteously, and reward him for holding fast his integrity in the face of all opposers.

Let us understand that the Day of Christ's return will be the Day of the resurrection of the dead. It will immediately unite all Christians with their dear Savior and Redeemer. Listen to the words of 1st Corinthians Chapter 15: 12 – “Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?” “But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen.” “And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.” “Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise.” “For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen.” “And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!” “Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.”

“If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.” “But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.” “For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.” Job has said, “I know that my Redeemer lives, and after the skin worms destroy my body, I shall still one day, see God for myself.” He is obviously referring to our Lord Jesus Christ; this same glorious Lord whom we have come to remember here at the Lord's table at this time. I want to you to meditate with me now, as you come down to the front to assemble for the Supper, upon this blessed truth; that because Christ has been raised from the dead, I too shall be raised from the dead, and I shall one day see my blessed Redeemer face to face.

3rd – Job yearned for the blessed day when He would see Christ with his physical eyes.

In verse 27 Job says, “I shall see Christ for myself, and my eyes shall behold Him, and not another.” “How my heart yearns within me!” This translation of the New King James I believe to be the most strong and the most accurate. The ESV translates this: “How my heart faints within me.” The NASB translates it the same way. The King James translates it – “though my reins be consumed within me. But I cannot think that any of these last translations has done the context justice. The heart and mind of Job was not consumed within him over the Lord's return. He was yearning for that day; longing and looking forward to it with all of his heart. And this is what I hope that you are longing for, even as you come to partake of these elements with me. You are longing for that Day when the Redeemer will apply to you the last stage in your redemption. It will be the redemption of the body.

Romans 8: 23-25 – “Not only that, but we also who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.” “For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?” “But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.” And John 6: 37-40 – “All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.” “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.” “This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.” “And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.” This is what we celebrate as we come to the Lord's table at this time; that Jesus has done the will of Him who sent Him, and because of that He will lose none of His elect. He will raise us up on the last day to behold His glory and to see Him face to face. He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!