

CONFIDENT OF REDEMPTION / Sunday, October 12, 2014

Unifying Topic: **EVEN SO, MY REDEEMER LIVES**

Lesson Text

I. **Job Is Betrayed By His Friends** (Job 19:1-4)

II. **Job Feels Rejected By God** (Job 19:5-7)

III. **Job Places Hope In His Redeemer** (Job 19:23-29)

Lesson Text: For I know *that* my redeemer liveth, and *that* he shall stand at the latter *day* upon the earth. (Job 19:25, KJV).

Unifying Principle: Even when people admit their shortcomings, they are often ostracized by others and receive no justice. Where can they get strength and reassurance? Job and the psalmist proclaim that—no matter what happens—God, the Redeemer, lives and constantly sends forth steadfast love to all people.

Lesson Aim: To remind us that God has a plan and He has not forgotten about us even in our season of suffering; God is always faithful to us.

Life Aim: To remind us that although things may not appear to be just, God is in control and He will make things right at the appropriate time.

19:1 Then Job answered and said,

19:2 How long will ye vex my soul, and break me in pieces with words?

19:3 These ten times have ye reproached me: ye are not ashamed *that* ye make yourselves strange to me.

19:4 And be it indeed *that* I have erred, mine error remaineth with myself.

19:5 If indeed ye will magnify *yourselves* against me, and plead against me my reproach:

19:6 Know now that God hath overthrown me, and hath compassed me with his net.

19:7 Behold, I cry out of wrong, but I am not heard: I cry aloud, but *there is* no judgment.

19:23 Oh that my words were now written! oh that they were printed in a book!

19:24 That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever!

19:25 For I know *that* my redeemer liveth, and *that* he shall stand at the latter *day* upon the earth:

19:26 And *though* after my skin *worms* destroy this *body*, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

19:27 Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; *though* my reins be consumed within me.

19:28 But ye should say, Why persecute we him, seeing the root of the matter is found in me?

19:29 Be ye afraid of the sword: for wrath bringeth the punishments of the sword, that ye may know there is a judgment.

HISTORY:

Chapters 1-18 Job was a perfect, upright and blameless man living in Uz, who feared God, prayed for his seven sons and three daughters, rich in possessions until God allowed Satan to test his faith by attacking all that he had, but he was not to lay a finger on him physically. Satan has no permission unless God allows it. In this story we will learn that Job's suffering was not brought on by sin in his life. He prayed continuously for his children, thinking they have sinned and cursed God in their hearts. By now Job had lost everything, including his children and all his possessions; and Job's wife said curse God and die, but still he would not sin with his lips against God (1:14-22). Job's three friends (Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar) after hearing of all the evil that had come upon him, came to mourn with him and comfort him. Job was afflicted with a disease that outwardly manifests itself in boils, or open sores from the sole of his feet to the crown of his head. His friends sat with him on the ground for seven days not saying a thing, for they saw that his grief was great (2:9-13). After seven days, Job broke his silence and cursed the day he was born (Chp.3). Then his friends responded to Job's groaning.

First Eliphaz rebukes him. He urges Job to accept God's discipline. And Job replies in defense by maintaining his innocence and asserts his right to complain, and asks God why is he made a target? (Chp.4-7). Next Bildad rebukes Job, asserting that sin brings punishment. But Job defends himself maintaining his innocence, which made Bildad upset. Job says that Bildad has not said anything new; has not brought anything new to the table to help him. Job longs to go before God, but he needs a mediator. He then jumps to the conclusion of wishing that he had died at birth (Chp.8-10). Lastly Zophar rebukes Job with anger, implying that God is beyond understanding and urges Job to confess his sins because he deserved more punishment, not less. All three friends take the same position that Job was suffering because of his sin. He went so far as to say he was hiding secret faults, but Job defends himself, answering Zophar with great sarcasm, saying that he was a know it all. Three famous quotes come from Job: (1) "*Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him...*" (13:15). (2) "*Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble*" (14:1). (3) "*If a man die, shall he live again? All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come*" (14:14). And Job continues on (Chp.11-14).

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All of Job's friends have spoken and the discussion starts all over again with Eliphaz's rebuke, asserting that wise men have always believed that sin brings suffering. By now Job is frustrated with his friends and accuses his friends of an endless flow of foolish and critical words, for they were to comfort him, instead, they condemn him. He maintains his innocence and his prayer is pure. His friends were supposed to be wise, but they showed no wisdom. Since they were prosperous and successful they thought God must be pleased with the way they were living and the way they were thinking. Job calls God to defend him because he has become a mockery to those around him, so his spirit is breaking and he resigns himself to death (Chp.15-17). Bildad begins the second round of rebuke by thinking he knew how the universe should be run, and saw Job's life as an illustration of the consequences of sin. He rejected Job's side of the story because it did not fit with his outlook of life. Does that sound like some of us? This second time around was harsher describing the terrible woes of the wicked (Chp.18).

LESSON:

Job 19:1-4 Job Is Betrayed By His Friends

19:1 Then Job answered and said,— Job continues to feel persecuted by his friends and answers Bildad's rebuke by maintaining his innocence.

19:2 How long will ye vex my soul, and break me in pieces with words?— Job wonders how long will this go on; how long will he vex his soul; make his soul sorrowful; make his life bitter; exhaust him with tormenting words. How long will he try to break him into pieces with his vain words; crush and destroy him with these reproving words? His friends had cruel words against him like a sword thrusting through his heart.

19:3 These ten times have ye reproached me: ye are not ashamed that ye make yourselves strange to me. Job complains that his three friends have reproached him 10 times (a figure of speech), indicating a full measure of interchanges. They viciously attacked his character. They should be ashamed that they have made themselves strangers. There seems like a betrayal of friendship.

19:4 And be it indeed that I have erred, mine error remaineth with myself. Job lets him know that he was unconscious of willful sin, but if he had unconsciously error, it's only on him; he alone is responsible if he had done evil things; and he bears the consequences.

Job 19:5-7 Job Feels Rejected By God

19:5 If indeed ye will magnify yourselves against me, and plead against me my reproach:— His friends have shown Job no mercy, so, he hits hard with his words because they assume themselves to be great, having a superior attitude making this argument against him. They accused him so many times because they were proud and wanted to prove that they were right.

19:6 Know now that God hath overthrown me, and hath compassed me with his net. Job openly lays the responsibility for his condition at God's feet. Job's accusation is that God has overthrown (*conquered*) him and has encompassed (*caught and surrounded*) him with His net. Job felt that God was treating him as an enemy, when in fact, God was his friend and though highly of him.

19:7 Behold, I cry out of wrong, but I am not heard: I cry aloud, but there is no judgment. Job continues with his accusations against God— he's not heard when he cries out to God; and there's no judgment when he cries out. God is the One who has ultimately allowed this to come about. But, Job is affirming his belief that God is just, but still confirms that his suffering is not because of his sin. Job fails to even consider that Satan may have a part in all of this. He does not mention Satan once, either directly or indirectly.

Job 19:23-29 Job Places Hope In His Redeemer

19:23 Oh that my words were now written! oh that they were printed in a book!— Three things Job wishes: (1) that his words were written or (2) even printed in a book.

19:24 That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever!— (3) Job wishes that his words could be eternally chiseled into a rock. The iron pen was a stylus or an engraving tool used to make writing on lead or stone. These would be experiences that others will read about that he had gone through. ¹Bildad said that everyone would forget the wicked man (Job 18:17-19). But Job did not want anyone to forget that he was innocent (Job 16:18). So

¹ <http://www.easyenglish.info/bible-commentary/job-lbw.htm>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

Job wanted someone to write his words in a book, then people would remember them always. And, of course, we still have the Book of Job today. It may be the most ancient book that still exists. Job wanted a permanent record of the things that he and his friends discovered about God.

19:25 For I know *that* my redeemer liveth, and *that* he shall stand at the latter *day* upon the earth:— In this Scripture Job utters a Messianic prophecy; a resounding affirmation to be remembered by most, though he might not have realized it: "*For I know that my redeemer liveth...*" This is why Job still has hope! This is something he truly knows. Others might doubt God but he knows that his Redeemer exists; He lives; this is a surety in his mind.² Job desires to express the utmost confidence in his redeemer. His friends might accuse him of hypocrisy - they might charge him with lack of piety, and he might not be able to refute (contradict) all that they said; but his position would remain fixed, with this firm confidence he would support his soul. It was this which he wished to have recorded in the eternal rocks, that the record might go down to future times. If after ages they should hear of the charges brought against him and of the accusations of impiety which had been so harshly and unfeelingly urged, he wished that this testimony might be recorded, to show that he had unwavering confidence in God.

19:25b And that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. One hope alone was left, which the Spirit revealed—a vindication in a future life—He predicts God standing at a later time to reveal Himself upon the earth. He sees the Redeemer as One who will fight his cause; come to his defense, even at the end of time. His faith reaches to a new pinnacle—having confidence of his redemption.

19:26 And *though* after my skin *worms* destroy this *body*,—Though Job is distressed that no one believes him now, he trusts that one day he will be vindicated and see God for himself, even after the skin worms destroy his body, he may have a new body to look upon God.

19:26b So, we conclude, with Job's declaration: **...yet in my flesh shall I see God.** He sees God delivering him out of his miserable and desperate condition, and restoring him to his former splendor and happiness in the world. The Redeemer and Deliverer we will all look for is Jesus!

19:27 Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; *though* my reins be consumed within me. He's predicting or utters a Messianic prophecy that with his own eyes he shall behold God and not someone else. He will not be a stranger but as a friend. There is a day when Job, and all who believe in Christ, our Redeemer, shall behold Him.

19:28 But ye should say, Why persecute we him, seeing the root of the matter is found in me?— We are so quick to criticize and persecute, but not quick enough to help. He's saying that his friends should have said why persecute him and pursue him with harsh words, since we only see him as the only logical one; we only saw or came to the conclusion that the root (*the origin or cause*) of the matter was found in him.

19:29 Be ye afraid of the sword: for wrath bringeth the punishments of the sword, that ye may know there is a judgment. Job tells his three friends to be afraid of the sword. The sword refers to them passing judgment. Judgment belongs to God and not to them. He turns to them giving them a warning that their persistent persecution of presuming he is guilty will bring the sword of judgment down upon their own heads.

SUMMARY:

This chapter begins with Job answering Bildad, one of his friends who had come to see him in his distress. It was not a good meeting for Job wanted to know why he came to vex his soul; breaking him down in pieces with his harsh words, reproaching him 10 times, thereby making himself seem superior. He reminded them that it is God that has overthrown him and caught him in His net. He's cried out, but he's not heard; he cried loudly, but there's no judgment (19:1-7).

Job wants his words to be written, even printed in a book; chiseled with an iron pen and lead, in the rock forever. He knows that his redeemer lives and will stand at a later time to reveal Himself upon the earth at the end time. Though worms take over his body, his flesh shall see God for himself and not another. And for his friends, persecuting him would be the wrong thing to do. It would be best if they trembled; be afraid of the sword or judgment in which the Lord would bring (19:23-29).

APPLICATION:

There has to be reminders within ourselves that Christ our Redeemer will never let us down even when it looks distant; beyond our reach. He is always fighting on our behalf for our good. There is no pain that we go through that He Himself has not bore!

² <http://biblehub.com/commentaries/job/19-25.htm>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>