

Job 19:20-27 (tx: 25-27)

MY REDEEMER LIVES

- I. The prophetic meaning
- II. The Easter fulfillment

INTRODUCTION

A Christian once wrote on Easter:

- “This is the Day of Resurrection. This is the day the Lord has made: we will rejoice and be glad in it.
- “Easter is God’s day. He made. By raising Christ from the dead, God Himself made this a day of new freedom, new hope, & endless life.”

Well, we have just celebrated Easter, the greatest event in human history.

- it is the crowning climax to Calvary’s cross.
 - for without its empty grave the cross would mean absolutely nothing, & our faith is all in vain.
 - we are still in sin & captives of death with no hope beyond the grave.
- th’fore, we might as well throw away our Bibles, close up our churches, eat, drink, & be merry, for tomorrow we will die, & that’s it.
- & that means of all creatures on earth we are the most to be pitied, as ICor.15 says.

But praise the Lord: Easter has happened!

- the crucified Christ arose to be our risen Redeemer & reigning Lord.
 - He lives to save all believers from sin & death & give them eternal life.
- & so Easter is the central core of Christianity, the only foundation of our faith & our blessed hope of eternal glory with God.

Th’fore, the Christian’s victory cry is: “He is risen & He lives!”

- & because He lives, we live too, saved from sin & death to live forever with the Lord.
- that’s our only source of help & hope, of strength & security to live & die in joy & victory.

Well, that has been the Christian’s victory cry down through the ages since the 1st Easter when Jesus arose as the Defeater & Destroyer of death & the grave, & the Lord of life.

- but, you know, that was also the cry of another Christian long before Good Friday & Easter happened.
- it was the cry of faith of an OTChristian as he sat on a pile of ashes suffering the loss of home & health.
- it was Job who cried: “I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes-- I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!
 - or, as another version puts it: “I know my Redeemer lives and will stand upon earth at last. And I know after this body has decayed, I shall see God. Then He will be on my side! Yes, I shall see Him, not as a stranger, but as a friend! What a glorious hope!”

What a cry of faith & hope Job made before Easter!

- so how much more shouldn’t that be our confession after Easter.
 - for we now stand in the full, clear light of God’s revelation of Christmas & Good Friday & in the glory of Easter’s empty grave.
- they all vividly proclaim that there is really a living Redeemer that Job knew.
 - it is Jesus Christ, our risen Lord & Savior, who lives & reign today.

Th'fore, as we have celebrated **Easter** again, we consider **Job's** confession: **MY REDEEMER LIVES.**

- 1st, what Job means & how this is a prophecy about the coming Savior.
- & 2nd, how it is fulfilled at Easter.

I. ITS PROPHETICE FULFILLMENT

1st, then what does **Job** mean when he spoke the familiar words of our **passage**?

- is he referring to the coming of Christ, the resurrection of believers, or just to a deliverance from his present sufferings?
- is he referring to the resurrection of the body, or only to life after the grave, or to both?

Well, the 1st thing we see is that here we have the words of a man of faith.

- of one who feared & believed God, just as the Lord told Satan in Job 1&2.
- & that must have included a belief & hope in the resurrection & life beyond the grave with God.
 - for it was somehow connected with his faith in a Redeemer that lives, though not as clear as ours.

But still we see in Job's confession a real belief in the resurrection & life beyond the grave.

- as a matter of fact, we see that in the Book of Job where he defends himself against his friends' accusations that he was a great sinner because he suffering so.
- there are 3 verses that show his faith & hope become more & more firm until they reach their climax in our passage.

The 1st reference is found in **Job 14.**

- here he asks: "Shall we live again when we die?"
- that was Job's hope that he would if it were true.

The 2nd reference is in **ch.16.**

- here his faith becomes even more positive & firm.
- he says he believes he has a Witness in heaven, God Himself, who would defend him & declare his innocence before people.

And then in our **passage Job** reaches the high point of his faith & hope.

- for here he confesses in victorious faith that he is absolute sure his Redeemer, God Himself, lives.
 - & someday He will come & bring Job back from the grave.
- then Job himself will be there in person when the Lord will clear him of any & all guilt & save him.
 - so someday he believed, after he died, he would see God face to face in the flesh, which is his desire & firm hope.
- th'fore we can say: "here Job plants a flag of victory over his own grave."

Now remember: **Job** makes his confession because he was trying to defend himself & his innocence against his 3 friends who said he was suffering because he had committed serious sins.

- but, as we know from Bible, he was suffering because he was being tested by God to prove to Satan he was a real man of God & would remain one no matter what by Lord's all-sufficient, all-powerful grace.
- O, yes, Job's faith faltered but it never failed.
 - he began to doubt & question why, but he never turned against or away from God, though he lost all his possessions, his family, even the support of his wife.
- th'fore, as his 3 friends continued to accuse him of sin, Job rebukes them for their false charges.
 - & contends his innocence before Lord & men.

But then **Job** looks to the future; he knows he will die.

- & he has a strong desire that his words of being innocent would be written down in a book, or engraved on a rock forever for future generations to see.
- all so that they will judge him more justly & fairly than his friends.
- & he will be cleared of any guilt, defended & honored, & his innocence be preserved.

But then his faith becomes even firmer.

- he realizes & believes something greater than his innocence will be written down to be seen & believed by future generations.
- he says he will be cleared of any guilt & declared innocent forever because he knows he has a Redeemer who lives, the Greatest Defender of all, his God.
 - He will someday stand upon this earth as Job's final witness & defense.
- & Job says: "I will be cleared from guilt before all. And I will be there personally when it happens, for even though I die, in the flesh I will see Him face to face as my Friend."

Now notice: **Job** says: "I know."

- this is a firm faith & a real confident conviction that it is a sure thing.
- this is not some vague feeling of I-hope-it-so kind of attitude.

And note too: he doesn't have this sure faith when everything is going right.

- no, but he said: "I know, I believe without a doubt" while he sat on a pile of ashes with a tear-streaked face & a body covered all over with boils.
- he said it when, as I said earlier, he had nothing left, for he had lost everything, even his family, except his wife & friends.
 - & they weren't much of a help to him.

Yet **Job** had a firm faith in God, even though he had his doubts.

- he knew in Whom he believed & on Whom he depended totally no matter what.
 - & he knew for sure Lord wouldn't forsake him in life & in death, regardless what happens.
- that's why Job passed the test by a firm faith in God as his Lord & Savior.
 - & by it he overcame all sufferings & temptations to curse & forsake Lord.
- & God blessed him more abundantly than He had before.

You know, maybe that's the reason why life is hard & **Christianity** isn't so exciting.

- why our faith in God isn't always so firm; we aren't really sure in Whom we believe.
 - but our faith is a hope-so-kind-of faith & we haven't really & completely committed ourselves to God in total trust & love & obedience.
- th'fore, we aren't really sure He won't fail us, especially when life get rough & tough, & we face death.

But, if we completely trust Lord as our only Redeemer & Ruler,--

- have a personal relationship with Him in Jesus Christ,--
 - then we will live & die victoriously to live forever with God beyond the grave.
- that's only real comfort & hope we have in life & death & for eternity: that we believe & belong to Jesus Christ, our risen Redeemer.

Now that's what **Job's** faith was too.

- a personal, living faith in God that went beyond this life through death into eternity.
- for he said: "I know MY Redeemer lives."—the living Redeemer was his personally.

Now it's very important to notice what the **Hebrew** word for **Redeemer** means.

- in the O.T. it means Rescuer, Vindicator, Defender.

- it refers to one who rescues or buys back another from slavery or a debt.
 - it refers to one who avenges another's death if he or she is unjustly killed.
 - or to one who defends & preserved another's honor & good name.

And this **Rescuer or Defender** in the **O.T.** was one of the family or the nearest blood-relative.

- Isaiah often uses this term for God as the One who would come down.
- & He would rescue His people & defend their honor.

So **Job** says he has a **Redeemer**—Rescuer & Defender who lives, even God Himself.

- & this living Rescuer, Defender-God will someday come down at last & stand, as the Hebrew says, “on the dust”, or on the earth.
- this refers to the dust or ground into which Job would be laid & into which his body would be changed when he died.

In other words, it is **Job's** firm faith & conviction that His **Redeemer-God** would someday stand over his dust or grave as His Rescuer & Defender.

- or, as the New English Bible, says, the Lord would be the last One to speak on Job's behalf in court.
- that is to say, his Redeemer & Defender, God Himself would take his side.
 - & be the One to speak the final, decisive word about Job.
 - the One to defend him & to testify to Job's innocence, & so rescue him for all guilt.

And then, **Job** utters those amazing words: “I will be there in person, for even though my skin or my body will be destroyed,—

- “Even though I have died, yet in my flesh I will see God, My Savior, with my own eyes.”
- “I will be there personally when He comes to rescue & redeem His people.”

Now that's a lot more than just believing & hoping he would see Lord after he died.

- for he says he would see God without his body, in my flesh, with his own eyes.
- all that seems to say he had some idea he wouldn't have the same body he had in life, but another one.

Th'fore, **Job** had some idea that, after he died, someday Lord would come & call him to life again.

- & he would rise bodily from the grave to see God face to face.
- & his God, his Redeemer & Defender would declare Job innocent before all & save him from all guilt.
 - & he would live with the Lord forever.

That was Job's firm faith & strong hope.

- & the thought of it so overwhelmed him that he exclaims: “My heart yearns within me!”
 - it was just too wonderful, too marvelous & miraculous to think about.
- that was Job's firm faith about life beyond the grave with his Savior-God, which he only understood in part.

But how much more, I said, shouldn't we confess & believe that.

- we who now live on the other side of Bethlehem's barn, Calvary's cross, Easter's grave!
 - now that the manger & the cross & the grave are empty & have become a fact in history!
- today we understand it so much more fully, so that, as Christians, that must be our faith & assurance & hope: “I know my Redeemer lives, & someday, though I die, yet will I live & see my God face to face with my own eyes beyond the grave!”

II. THE EASTER FULFILLMENT

For after all, **Job's** confession & conviction were also a prophecy that pointed forward to that future day.

- to that great day of Lord when it was fulfilled through Christmas & Good Friday & Easter with the coming of Jesus Christ onto this earth, He died, & arose for the salvation of sinners.
- & it will be fulfilled all the more when Jesus, the crucified Christ & risen, now reigning Savior will come again at the end of time to stand on this earth.
 - & He will call the dead to life again, & save His people fully & finally & forever.

Th'fore we have this same Redeemer & Rescuer & Defender: He is the Almighty God Himself.

- He came the 1st time, as Jesus Christ of Nazareth, & stepped onto this planet through the womb of the Virgin Mary.
- He became a blood-relative of us—one of the family—a real human being to be our Redeemer & Savior.

Then Jesus, our Redeemer & Rescuer went to **Calvary's** cross where He suffered & died.

- & there He fully & finally paid our debt & sin's price for us.
- He bought us with His blood; rescued us from death; & brought us back to Himself & into eternal life.

But our Redeemer lives, for Jesus Christ arose from the dead & the grave on **Easter**.

- if He hadn't, then He couldn't be our Savior, for a dead Jesus can't save anyone from death & give us eternal life.
- only a risen Redeemer, the living Lord, who defeated & destroyed sin & death, can.

And **Bible** says plainly & positively Jesus did arise from the dead & is this living Redeemer.

- it records the witness of many who never expected to see Jesus alive again when He was crucified & buried.
 - but after 3 day they saw His empty grave & burial clothes & the risen Savior with their own eyes, & they believed & proclaimed: "He is risen! He is alive."
- & so, as a fact of history, Christians proclaim with Job: "I know my Redeemer lives!"

But the fact of **Easter** is also a fact we enjoy & experience personally, right now, in our own lives, as those who believe & belong to the living Christ, as our Lord & Savior.

- we know He lives, because He lives in our hearts & our lives.
 - we experience His resurrected life, & His resurrection, saving presence & power in us through a personal, living relationship with Jesus our living Savior & Lord.
- th'fore we are changed into new persons so that we die daily to sin & are raised to a new life.
 - so we no longer live for self & sin, but we live for the Lord.
- in other words, when we confess in faith we know our Redeemer lives we become personally involved in Good Friday & Easter.

And too, because Jesus lives we know He is our Savior who died on the cross for our sin & was raised for our justification, **Romans** says.

- that's what God assures through Easter's empty grave.
 - that He has accepted Christ's sacrifice on the cross as the full & final payment for our sin.
- so we know by faith in our risen Redeemer we are cleared from all guilt & saved from sin's penalty.
 - our sins are all forgiven; we are declared innocent & become God's own for eternity.
 - that's God final word & sure promise, sealed by His blood on Calvary & with an empty grave.

But too, because Christ arose & lives & we live in Him by faith, we are saved from sin's **power**.

- because sin & death have been defeated by Jesus' resurrection, sin & death have no more power over us.
- because Christ lives, by faith in Him we live & have His resurrection power to live as new persons with new eternal life.

- to daily be & live more & more like Christ
- & able to live this life, not matter what it brings, & to face the grave victoriously in joy & peace.
- it is all ours if we believe & know Jesus as Lord & Savior.

But also, because Jesus arose & lives, that also means we live eternally, for we are saved from the sin's presence—its final end--eternal death.

- to be sure we are going to die, but the grave isn't the end, for those in Christ, as **Job** saw & said.
- because again Christ died, was buried, & arose & lives, He overcame the grave & death for us.
- th'fore in Him by faith death can no longer keep & conquer us, for, as Jesus once said, we won't really die, but we live forever.

And so, like **Job**, by faith in the crucified, conquering Christ, we can face life & death & the grave with a firm confession & conviction: "I know my Redeemer lives".

- & because He does, even though we die, someday He will return to this earth.
 - stand over our grave, call us back to life again & we will be raised bodily from the grave.
- & then beyond the grave we will see our Savior-God face to face with our own eyes.
 - & He will give His final word about you & me: that all our guilt & sin have been taken away forever—we are forgiven, innocent, saved
 - & we will live forever with Lord in perfect peace & joy & glory.

CONCLUSION

We know that for sure, because we have a Redeemer, a risen Blood-Relative, a Savior who lives, Jesus Christ, as **Bible & Easter's** empty grave tell us.

- & we know it because He lives in us so that we are saved from sin's penalty & power & presence.
- th'fore we will live eternally with Him.

That's what **Job** knew & confessed centuries ago.

- & that's what millions more have known down through the ages: "I know that my Redeemer lives!"
- the question is: "Do you really know it & are you living it?"

AMEN