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Sermon Notes

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## **I Know That My Redeemer Lives!**

### **Job 18-19**

In this section of the Book of Job, we are going to see Job at his worst, and then Job at his best. Job will make his harshest accusation of Almighty God, claiming that God has wronged him and that there is NO JUSTICE... that God has been unjust. That's Job at his worst! But we will also walk through the most sublime declaration of faith Job ever made... words that show a stunning level of understanding of God's ultimate purpose in the salvation of sinners – bodily resurrection from the grave resulting in the glorious vision of God himself!

Staggering range in this one chapter! How can we humans be so wildly inconsistent??!! How are we so full of DOUBTS as James said concerning people who go through extreme sufferings... they should ask God for WISDOM...

***James 1:6 But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.***

James calls such a man “a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.” That is who we are while we live in this state of grace on earth... born again, but not yet glorified; made a new creation, but still capable of great corruption in our souls.

We see in the space of just a few lines of holy text Job saying things that should never have been said – questioning the essence of the character of God, his justice, accusing him of gross injustice in his case... but then a few lines later giving one of the most

sublime and clearest confessions of faith in the ultimate resurrection of God's people into eternal glory, seeing the face of God.

"Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing!" as James says...

"Brothers, this should not be!" True... but it IS! It IS, dear brothers and sisters! It IS who we are! And Job shows us the grace of God in covering our wicked faithless statements, while teaching us and coaxing from us amazing confessions of faith.

Today, we get to walk through both sides of this equation... and we will spend much time on Job's stunning statement of faith:

***Job 19:25-27 I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. <sup>26</sup> And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; <sup>27</sup> I myself will see him with my own eyes-- I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!***

But before we get to Job at his worst, then at his best... we need briefly to recount Bildad the Shuhite at his worst!

## I. Bildad the Shuhite's Wretched Second Speech (Job 18)

### A. Same Song, Only Much More Vicious

1. Fundamental to Job's friends' consistent position... the law of sowing and reaping
2. A just God would never do these terrible things to a righteous man; and the immensity of the sorrows is proportional to the immensity of Job's sins... even if they are hidden from our eyes and we have no evidence for them, our theology dictates that this must be the case
3. But now, Bildad is just NASTY... his friends begin to get prideful and take their gloves off; absolutely devoid of all compassion, and (as we shall see at the end of the sermon) devoid of any fear for themselves of God's judgement on them for their own sins... NO COMPASSION, and NO HUMILITY at all!

## B. A Rehearsing of the Savage Curses That Inevitably Come on the Wicked

1. His lamp is snuffed out in total darkness
2. He is snared by his own wicked schemes
3. He is terrorized on every side
4. His flesh is destroyed in great agony
5. He perishes utterly from the earth
6. AND no one ever thinks of him again

***Job 18:21 Surely such is the dwelling of an evil man; such is the place of one who knows not God."***

Staggering! Calling Job an evil man who "knows not God" ... of whom God himself boasted:

***Job 1:8 he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."***

C. So... Job Could Easily Ask... "Why, my 'FRIEND' are you saying such things TO ME???"

***Job 19:1-3 Then Job replied: <sup>2</sup> "How long will you torment me and crush me with words? <sup>3</sup> Ten times now you have reproached me; shamelessly you attack me.***

Their words have greatly added to his misery and torture... they are part of the entire experience of suffering he is undergoing

## II. Job at His Worst: Accusing God of Injustice

### A. Job Accuses God of Injustice

***Job 19:6-7 know that God has wronged me and drawn his net around me. <sup>7</sup> "Though I cry, 'I've been wronged!' I get no response; though I call for help, there is no justice.***

This is staggering! But it is essential for us to hear... for it is quickly on the lips of all people who stare into the terrifying blackness of the problem of evil in a world run by a loving, powerful, wise God. Everyone who feels the weight of human suffering is soon tempted to hurl this accusation up to the heavenly throne, to accuse God of injustice!!

This is why the whole topic in theology addressing the problem of evil is called "theodicy" ... showing the justice or righteousness of God even in the face of such evils that happen to people on earth

So Job, by venting his wicked thoughts toward God, is serving the whole human race... because we all have that exact same temptation when we begin to suffer. But even so, that still doesn't make it right!

This is the very thing God will convict Job of when he appears in the whirlwind to humble Job and level him and abase him –

***Job 40:6-8 Then the LORD spoke to Job out of the storm: <sup>7</sup> "Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. <sup>8</sup> "Would you discredit my justice? Would you condemn me to justify yourself?"***

God immediately brings this very issue up!!

Here we see the frailty of all human beings... even the most virtuous on the entire planet – the amazing man, Job. Certainly Job began his trial well:

***Job 1:22 In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.***

And again:

***Job 2:10 In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.***

But once he accuses God of injustice, Job's virtue in that matter was gone. This is precisely why Job repents at the end of the book:

***Job 42:4-6 "You said, 'Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.' <sup>5</sup> My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. <sup>6</sup> Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."***

1. Ironic that atheists who accuse God of injustice are actually proving his existence by showing that they have within their very nature a sense of what justice is... because they were created in his image!!
2. But our sense of justice and God's perfect innate justice are infinitely different in scope... it's as though our sense of justice is like a little paper match flickering in a breeze, and God's commitment to justice burns hotter and brighter than ten thousand suns
3. The cross of Jesus Christ had not happened yet in Job's time... but for us as Christians, this is God's final word on justice

***Romans 3:25-26 God presented [Christ] as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished-- <sup>26</sup> he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.***

In other words, Christ's death on the cross as our substitute under the searing infinite wrath of God is his eternal display of the justice of God... God was saying to all the universe for all time, "I would rather slaughter my Son, my only Son, Jesus whom I love, than allow a single sinner in heaven with his sins unatoned for, with my righteous laws crying out for his condemnation! I would rather slaughter my Son than give any sinner a free pass into heaven without his lawless deeds addressed." That is God's eternal commitment to justice.

What is yours? What is mine? Is it not a flickering match, struck from a paper match book on a windy day, then held up to the sun at noonday by comparison!

But Job accused God of injustice. He says he's been wronged. And he says though he cries out for justice, he gets no answer from God at all!

Furthermore, it seems he is accusing God of being his overpowering enemy... using his terrifying power to destroy him; as though God were not only unjust, but a tyrant, a bully... his enemy

#### B. God is Acting as My Enemy

##### ***Job 19:8-12***

God has blocked me in... I cannot get past God

God covers my path in darkness... I cannot find my way

God has stripped me of all my honors... I am humiliated before everyone

God tears me down and uproots all my hopes like a tree

God is like a mighty army advancing against me in force... God has defeated me in the plain of battle, and when I fled to my fortress city, God has besieged me and is destroying my walls

NOTE: how terrifying it is to have Almighty God as your personal enemy! Nothing is more terrifying than this!!

***Hebrews 10:31 It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.***

#### C. Complete Social Rejection (19:13-19)

1. Job runs through the depths and dimensions of the rejection and humiliation he has felt from every person he knows in his life
2. Even his wife cannot be with him... she cannot stand smelling his breath (vs. 17)

John Calvin singles her out for this betrayal... we know she earlier said "Curse God and die!" but she also turned away from him in his time of need and will give him no comfort at all... Calvin

said **“His wife showed herself like a savage beast in this situation.”**

3. But his closest relatives also shunned him... his brothers; his kinsmen; all his friends—including these three sitting with him; his servants cannot stand him and will not answer him when he calls—utter disrespect; and acquaintances shun him as well... even little boys show disrespect, because undoubtedly they had heard the slanderous reports about this secretly corrupt man who it turns out was evidently the greatest hypocrite in the world
4. These days, in the world of social media, we have a phenomenon known as the “cancel culture”... someone says or does something deemed reprehensible and everyone cancels that person—cuts them out entirely. Well, that was not invented in the smartphone/social media age... it was going on in Job’s time as well
5. It especially happened with Jesus!!

***Isaiah 53:3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.***

D. So, Job Begs for Pity from His Friends

***Job 19:21 "Have pity on me, my friends, have pity, for the hand of God has struck me.***

So... we have seen Job at his worst... accusing God of injustice; now let’s see Job at his best—testifying of his Redeemer and of his own personal resurrection glory

III. Job at His Best: Testifying of His Redeemer

A. Job Yearns for His Words to Be Inscribed

***Job 19:23-24 "Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll, <sup>24</sup> that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead, or engraved in rock forever!***

Amazing that he would say that! And that God would, through the Holy Spirit, grant this very thing, by crafting the very book we are now reading and studying so carefully centuries, even millennia later!

As Jesus himself said:

***Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.***

The doctrine of the inspiration and permanence of scripture... a very human book, written by ordinary people going through specific circumstances... and the words they wrote on the page were **INSPIRED** by the Holy Spirit and **PRESERVED** through all time for us to read and study!

***2 Peter 1:21 Prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.***

Job is about to say some things that soar beyond his immediate circumstances... they have far greater meaning for us Christians now, given that we are past the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, and can put far more detail to these words of Job... Job spoke these words but could not have understood all the depths and dimensions and details that they entailed.... So it is always with prophecy

#### B. The Stunning Confession

***Job 19:25-27 I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. <sup>26</sup> And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; <sup>27</sup> I myself will see him with my own eyes-- I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!***

Let's walk through it as Job might have understood these words, and then in a moment expand them to how much more powerfully clear they should be for us today

##### 1. I know that my Redeemer lives



- a. The Hebrew word translated “redeemer” is often translated “kinsman redeemer”... a near relative who can step in and save the day for a family member who is in deep trouble
- b. In a larger sense, the kinsman-redeemer is one who is defending the family as a whole from shame or financial ruin
- c. The kinsman-redeemer might avenge the death of a murdered relative, or pay a price to redeem someone out of slavery, or redeem some property that has fallen into debt.

This is the story of the Book of Ruth, where Boaz was the kinsman-redeemer for Ruth and married her and cared for her in her distress

God is sometimes called by this same title, only just “Redeemer” ... the Lord is the one who redeems Israel from all her enemies

- d. The problem is... who is Job’s redeemer? Who can intervene with Almighty God on his behalf

***Job 9:33-34 If only there were someone to arbitrate between us, to lay his hand upon us both, <sup>34</sup> someone to remove God's rod from me, so that his terror would frighten me no more.***

***Job 16:19-21 Even now my witness is in heaven; my advocate is on high. <sup>20</sup> My intercessor is my friend as my eyes pour out tears to God; <sup>21</sup> on behalf of a man he pleads with God as a man pleads for his friend.***

In the end, this Redeemer must have been a mystery to Job, for who can properly stand before God if God is the one acting like an enemy?

But somehow, God has given Job faith to see through all his sorrows to his Redeemer:

***“I KNOW that my Redeemer lives!!”***

He has a living redeemer! And that redeemer will in the end be fully successful in vindicating Job...

***Job 19:25 and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.***

In the end = in the final act of the drama, in the final analysis, getting the final word

e. Job's Advocate, Job's Witness, Job's Mediator, Job's Redeemer is NOW ALIVE, and he will win his case on Job's behalf

f. How Job understood that person must remain a mystery... but he knows him now, and so do we!

2. Job's faith soars beyond his Redeemer standing in victory on his behalf... his language soars up to resurrection

***Job 19:26-27 And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; <sup>27</sup> I myself will see him with my own eyes-- I, and not another.***

I have already said in earlier sermons that Job does not seem to have any clear doctrine of the resurrection of the body from the grave... except here. I think like all the heroes of old, Job had a view of an eternal reward beyond this present world:

***Hebrews 11:16 they were longing for a better country-- a heavenly one.***

I do not think Job's words can merely be satisfied with his temporary physical healing, the restoration of his skin

***Job 19:20 I am nothing but skin and bones; I have escaped with only the skin of my teeth.***

The KJV adds "worms"... though it's not in the Hebrew:

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

3. Final destination: I will SEE GOD

***Job 19:27 I myself will see him with my own eyes-- I, and not another.***

a. Be in the presence of God, stand before him

- b. Job will experience this to some degree at the end when God appears to him in a whirlwind

***Job 42:5 My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you.***

- c. But these words in Job 19 seem to go beyond even that experience

- 4. Job's heart burns for this final deliverance

***"How my heart burns within me."***

#### IV. Christian Testimony Greater Than Job's

- A. Basic Conviction: We Know More Than Job, So We Should Display a Better Hope

***Hebrews 8:6 the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises.***

***Hebrews 7:19 a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.***

John Calvin: "Job spoke these words from the time when there was not yet great doctrine, when possibly the Law (of Moses) was not yet written... So, then, having only a little spark of light, he was so strengthened in his afflictions.... What excuse will there be today when God declares the resurrection to us so exactly and so explicitly and he gives us such beautiful promises of it? And even considered that we see the mirror and substance of it in our Lord Jesus Christ, that he was raised in order to show us that we must not doubt that we are at once partakers of this immortal glory."

Bottom line... we have the CLEAR HISTORY of Christ's bodily resurrection recorded in four gospels, plus we have the CLEAR PROMISES that we ourselves shall be raised from the grave by Christ's voice, plus we have the CLEAR DOCTRINE from Paul as to what our resurrection bodies will be like. We have better promises than Job... we should have a more vigorous, three-dimensional hope than he did!!

B. Job's AMAZING Words in Particular Can Come Alive for Us Who Know Jesus Christ's Mighty Resurrection Victory... and the Clear Teaching of the New Testament on What Awaits Us in the Future!!

1. "I know..." [our knowledge is sure and certain, based on these clear words from the Bible]

***Luke 24:39 Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.***

***John 11:25-26 "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; <sup>26</sup> and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.***

***2 Corinthians 5:1 Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.***

***John 5:28-29 Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice <sup>29</sup> and come out***

2. "my redeemer" [Jesus is the perfect kinsman... and the perfect redeemer]

***Kinsman: Hebrews 2:11 Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.***

***Redeemer: 1 Peter 1:18-19 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed... <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.***

3. "lives" [Jesus is ALIVE...]

***Romans 6:9-10 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. <sup>10</sup> The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.***

4. "and that at the last" [the final drama in redemptive history is the Second Coming of Christ and the resurrection from the dead]

***1 Corinthians 15:51-52 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed-- <sup>52</sup> in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.***

5. “he shall stand” [Jesus will take his stand on the earth as the redeemer, triumphant conqueror and mighty King for all time... his own feet will stand on the earth

***Zechariah 14:4 On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem***

6. “on the earth” [the Hebrew word could refer to dust... he will trample our enemy death under his feet... God said to Adam, “You are dust and to dust you shall return!” But Christ our redeemer will on the final day stand triumphant on the dust and raise us up

***Daniel 12:2 Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life***

7. “And even though my body is destroyed” [the grave will destroy our bodies... the worms and bacteria will finish their corruption... But our resurrected bodies will show Christ’s powerful victory over the plagues of the grave

***Hosea 13:14 I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. Where, O death, are your plagues? Where, O grave, is your destruction?***

8. “yet in my flesh”

***1 Corinthians 15:42-44 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; <sup>43</sup> it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; <sup>44</sup> it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.***

9. “I will see God”

***1 Corinthians 13:12 Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face.***

***1 John 3:2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.***

***Revelation 22:3-4 The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. <sup>4</sup> They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.***

V. Job Warns His Friends... and All Humanity: Fear God!

***Job 19:28-29 'If you say, 'How we will hound him, since the root of the trouble lies in him,' <sup>29</sup> you should fear the sword yourselves; for wrath will bring punishment by the sword, and then you will know that there is judgment.'***

- A. Their Fundamental Point: The Root of all of Job's troubles lies within his soul... in his secret sin nature
- B. Job warns them... he knows the truth... and the fact is, though he doesn't deny his inner corruptions, knowing that "No one is good but God alone," he perceives that they have NO FEAR OF GOD AT ALL
- C. They assume that their righteousness is sufficient to meet God
- D. He openly says, "You should fear the sword yourselves!"

Flee to Christ now!! Today is the day of salvation!! The marvelous promises of the gospel that we have celebrated today are for all who will genuinely humble themselves under the mighty hand of God

"Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved."