

My Redeemer Lives

Job 19 is one of the most powerful chapters in the entire book. After being crushed under wave after wave of personal tragedy, misunderstood by friends, and feeling forsaken even by God, Job voices the rawest pain of his life. But in the center of this storm, he shouts one of the most triumphant declarations of faith in all Scripture: “I know that my Redeemer lives.”

This chapter is both deeply personal and prophetic. Job doesn’t claim to understand *why* he suffers, but he clings to *Who* he can trust through it.

Verses 1–6: “You Crush Me With Your Words”

“Then Job answered and said: ‘How long will you torment my soul, and break me in pieces with words? These ten times you have reproached me... Know then that God has wronged me, and has surrounded me with His net.’” (Job 19:1–6, NKJV)

Job begins by rebuking his friends—not for their doctrine, but for their lack of compassion. They’ve shown no pity, only judgment. Instead of easing Job’s burden, they’ve made it heavier. He says, “You treat me like a stranger, like someone beneath you.”

Then Job turns to his deeper complaint: he feels abandoned by God. “God has wronged me,” he says—not as a theological conclusion, but as a cry of confusion. Job isn’t accusing God in rebellion; he’s expressing the honesty of a wounded heart. He feels surrounded, trapped, without answers.

Personal Application:

There are moments in suffering when even God seems silent. That doesn’t mean our faith has failed. Job shows us that God welcomes our raw honesty. You can bring your broken heart to Him, even when it’s confused. True faith doesn’t hide pain; it expresses it with reverence.

Verses 7–12: “I Cry Out... But There’s No Justice”

“I cry out, but I am not heard... He has fenced up my way... He has stripped me of my glory... He breaks me down on every side, and I am gone... His troops come together and build up their road against me.” (Job 19:7–12)

Job describes a total collapse of his world: his way is blocked, his dignity is stripped, and he feels besieged by God Himself. This imagery is intense: it’s as if God is treating Job like a rebel city to be conquered.

But again, this isn’t rebellion—it’s anguished confusion. Job acknowledges God’s sovereignty, but he doesn’t understand God’s purpose.

Personal Application:

There will be times when it feels like God is allowing everything to fall apart. Like Job, we may wonder, “What did I do wrong?” But the lesson here is that God’s silence is not God’s absence, and hardship is not always punishment. Keep crying out. Even when heaven seems quiet, your voice is heard.

Verses 13–22: “Everyone Has Left Me”

“He has removed my brothers far from me... my close friends have forgotten me... I call my servant, but he gives no answer... My breath is offensive to my wife... even young children despise me... Have pity on me, for the hand of God has struck me!” (Job 19:13–22)

This section is perhaps the most painful. Job catalogues the full extent of his isolation. His relatives, friends, servants—even his wife and children—want nothing to do with him. He is utterly alone, clinging to life by the “skin of his teeth.”

Job pleads with his friends to show mercy. “Why do you persecute me as if you were God?” he asks. “Isn’t my suffering enough for you?”

Personal Application:

Rejection by those closest to us often hurts more than the trial itself. Job’s cry reminds us that emotional abandonment can be as crushing as physical suffering. But even when people forsake us, God sees. Jesus Himself endured this kind of rejection (Isaiah 53:3). So when you feel utterly alone, know this: you are never truly abandoned when God is still near.

Verses 23–27: “I Know That My Redeemer Lives”

“Oh, that my words were written... 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...” (Job 19:23–27)

This is the mountain peak of Job’s faith. Out of the darkest valley comes the clearest declaration of eternal hope. Job doesn’t understand *why* he suffers—but he knows *Who* holds the future.

- “My Redeemer lives” – Job affirms that there is someone who will vindicate him—not just legally, but personally. The word *Redeemer* (Hebrew: *go’el*) refers to a kinsman-redeemer, someone who restores the rights of a wronged family member.
- “He shall stand at last on the earth” – Job believes this Redeemer will physically and publicly defend him in the end.
- “In my flesh I shall see God” – Even if death takes Job’s body, he believes he will one day stand resurrected and see *God with his own eyes*.

Personal Application:

This is where suffering finds its footing—in the unshakable hope of a living Redeemer. You may not know the outcome of your current trial, but you can cling to what Job knew: Your Redeemer is alive, and one day, *you will see Him for yourself*. The Christian hope isn’t in explanations—it’s in resurrection.

Verses 28–29: “There Is a Judgment”

“If you should say, ‘How shall we persecute him?’... Be afraid of the sword for yourselves; for wrath brings the punishment of the sword, that you may know there is a judgment.” (Job 19:28–29)

Job closes with a warning to his friends: don't continue down the path of judgmental cruelty. If you keep attacking the innocent, beware—there is a coming judgment, and you will answer for how you treated me.

Personal Application:

It's easy to speak confidently when you're not the one suffering. But Job's words remind us: our words matter, and we will be accountable for how we speak to the hurting. Never assume authority over someone else's suffering—only God knows the full story. Be gentle, for judgment belongs to Him.

Final Reflection: Hope in the Midst of Suffering

Job 19 is a chapter of extremes—*extreme pain*, *extreme abandonment*, and *extreme hope*. It reminds us that even when we don't understand our circumstances, we can stand on what we do know:

"I know that my Redeemer lives."

That knowledge sustained Job through his valley. And it can sustain us too.

Key Takeaways:

1. Honest lament is not faithlessness—it's worship through tears.
2. God's silence does not mean He is distant.
3. Even when everyone else abandons us, our Redeemer stands near.
4. Our future is not in the grave—it is with God.
5. Speak with compassion; we will be judged for how we treat the suffering.