

Please read [Job 19:1-28](#).

This is a very difficult passage. It is necessarily so because Job's situation is very difficult. As with many passages it was forged from the furnace of life itself. On one hand we have already studied that Job was a righteous man – not on some basis of innate good within the man, Job. No. Job was a righteous man on the basis of the imputation of God's righteousness. So, it is not the simple story of the strong man defeating his circumstances because he is courageous and singularly focused on his faith in his God. Because Job is a man of faith he necessarily will have his moments of doubt. We see a hint of this sort of doubt in his concern with his children that they may have done wrong and so he offers prophylactic sacrifices to ward off God's judgment against such possible sins.¹ Probably his concern was justified but nonetheless we may read into this offering of sacrifices that Job being a man first and then being a man of faith secondly is afflicted with this less than perfect focus on the LORD and can allow his life's circumstances crowd his spiritual walk.

So the difficulty of the passage in chapter 19 arises from fact that Job is thrust into a horrible personal circumstance of loss of health and *then* has his faith called into question – previously unquestioned – by, of all people, his friends. Thus amid the squalor of bad health and a questioned faith I expect Job will be a bit buffeted about but as we will soon see, his faith wins out in a glorious way. Let's approach this passage not from the viewpoint that we are about to receive a spiritual whiplash of expressions by Job but, rather that we will see the blend of Job being transparent about his feelings but being equally transparent about his faith.

One more thing before we enter the lesson. I have read several translations and I have decided to use [The Message](#) translation.² I feel it offers the best blend of a man of faith and a man of feelings as is the case with Job in these passages.

Job, the Man of Feelings Gets No Help from His Friends.

¹Job answered: ²"How long are you going to keep battering away at me, pounding me with these harangues? ³Time after time after time you jump all over me. Do you have no conscience, abusing me like this? ⁴Even if I have, somehow or other, gotten off the track, what business is that of yours? ⁵Why do you insist on putting me down, using my troubles as a stick to beat me? ⁶Tell it to God—he's the one behind all this, he's the one who dragged me into this mess. Job 19:1-6, The Message.

His friends are just no help. Is there a hint of sarcasm here with Job? Perhaps not but there may be a hint of it from the Holy Spirit as Job attacks his friends basic premise that he is being punished by God because he has committed some sin that he is unwilling to admit before them and more importantly to God. Job has searched his heart and comes up without a clue why this whole horrible mess has come upon him (as The Message translation so aptly puts it). It's not that Job has figured this mess out – it's that Job is clearly confused by it all and has no answer within himself. And his friends certainly do not have the answer either. The important point to grasp here is that they continually harangue Job about sinning when they have nothing to point out in his life. Indeed, he is without any definable flaw. His final challenge to them is that if they are so spiritual then they, themselves should go to God and ask Him for the answer – they certainly are not going to get anything from Job because he is in the dark about the whole mess. The mess? The

¹ Read [Job 1:4, 5](#).

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mess is this congealed mass of Job's loss of loved ones, health and his friends using all these troubles as a stick to beat him.

None of My Friends Listen to Me.

⁷"Look at me—I shout 'Murder!' and I'm ignored; I call for help and no one bothers to stop. ⁸God threw a barricade across my path—I'm stymied; he turned out all the lights—I'm stuck in the dark. ⁹He destroyed my reputation, robbed me of all self-respect. He tore me apart piece by piece—I'm ruined! ¹⁰Then he yanked out hope by the roots. ¹¹He's angry with me—oh, how he's angry! ¹²He treats me like his worst enemy. He has launched a major campaign against me, using every weapon he can think of, coming at me from all sides at once. Job 19:7-12, The Message.

Have you ever had that feeling? I have. We need to remember that Job is the righteous man here. If that is the case, then why is he accusing God of treating him like an enemy? The answer comes in one word – transparency. This is not rebellion against God – it's Job doing the best thing all men of God are good at – being honest with themselves and with God. This is how Job feels. I really want to think of this as sanctified sarcasm even though I know we cannot use this simple approach to Job's feelings right now. Think of it – did not Jesus Christ Himself express his deepest distress while on the cross **"And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"**³ True, he was quoting Psalm 22 – but it was still an expression of his distress while being judged by the Father for the sins of the world. The footing is the same. Yes, the righteous *may* express their feelings toward their loving Heavenly Father and the Father *will* receive that expression. So, while no one on earth listens to Job we will see in a few minutes that God will. And Job in his heart knows this. But let's move on.

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None of My Family Love Me.

¹³"God alienated my family from me; everyone who knows me avoids me. ¹⁴My relatives and friends have all left; ¹⁵houseguests forget I ever existed. The servant girls treat me like a bum off the street, look at me like they've never seen me before. ¹⁶I call my attendant and he ignores me, ignores me even though I plead with him. ¹⁷My wife can't stand to be around me anymore. I'm repulsive to my family. ¹⁸Even street urchins despise me; when I come out, they taunt and jeer. ¹⁹Everyone I've ever been close to abhors me; my dearest loved ones reject me. ²⁰I'm nothing but a bag of bones; my life hangs by a thread. Job 19:13-20, The Message.

We certainly do not need to go down through the members of his household to see that Job is an outcast to all that he holds precious. Can you even imagine being in such a mess? I'm going to cut this short because we have already touched on the backdrop of what Job is doing here. I only ask this question: how sure are you of your faith in Christ. Certainly, we need to examine ourselves on a daily basis regarding personal sins but in the

³ [Matthew 27:46](#).

cold harsh light of having all that we hold dear to our hearts taken away what part of our faith goes with it? I just cannot imagine the church NOT coming to my aid in difficulty but place ourselves in Job's

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situation where such calamity is deemed by the then "spiritual" world of the day as self-deserved where would we stand in our faith – a challenging question indeed. We have seen the righteous man expressing his feelings in difficulty But let's move on now to Job expressing his faith – even in times of extreme difficulty.

Job Knows His Redeemer Lives.

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

The Message got just a little too much far afield for my taste at this point so I will switch to NIV although any of the more traditional translations would do at this point. Job is certainly referring to his Redeemer (hebrew *goel* = meaning to deliver or redeem). Other notable passages where this same word is used are found in the following passages: [Exod 6:6](#); [Ruth 2:20](#); [3:9, 12, 13](#); [4:1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 14](#); [Psalm 19:14](#); [69:18](#); [72:14](#) and many other passages.

Job's Redeemer lives, as opposed to the dead god of his friends that they have invented in their own minds. Who is this Redeemer? Probably there is an immediate application to Job's horrible condition. His friends have been of no help. His family being impotent in helping has abandoned him. Only his Redeemer remains and he has expressed complete faith in Him to deliver him from his present condition. Some Bible students are reluctant to rush to the classic interpretation and make a direct connection to Jesus Christ. But certainly Moses had Jehovah in mind as the Holy Spirit guided his pen. It was to be Jehovah who was to deliver the Hebrews from the oppressive hand of Pharaoh. Zacharias, the father of John the Baptizer applied Jehovah's role as Redeemer to Jesus Christ (read [Luke 1:67-79](#)). The fact is that *goel* (the Hebrew word for redeemer) has and its derivatives has occurred well over 100 times in the Old Testament. Over 80 times the LXX translated *goel* into *lutroo* which gives us a transition into our word found in the New Testament.

And so the Grand theme of Redemption has been applied to a Person, both in the Old Testament and the New. This makes the connection of the Scarlet Thread from the beginning to the end of time as we will see as we finish this series. But I digress.

First a preview. Let's look at the passage: ²⁵ **I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.** This Redeemer is an eternal One who will stand (a figure of action – of command). We have made many references in a previous passage to the application of this word Redeemer. It is important to note that there is a two-fold shading to this word *goel* (pronounced *gaw-all*). The primary root of this word is to do the duty of a kinsman – to redeem a blood relative from difficulty or danger. According to the meaning of this word if a debtor is unable to alleviate his debt it is the responsibility of the next of kin to redeem the surety, whether an object, property or individual.⁴

But it doesn't need to be a material need. In the case of the Hebrews it was slavery to Pharaoh. In the case of Ruth it was the perilous state of a woman being unmarried and

⁴ Loosely lifted from [The Complete Biblical Library, Hebrew English dictionary page 19.](#)

having no home – she was literally a street person in today's setting. In the case of all sinners it is the condition of being in the Slave Market of Sin.

¹⁵ What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. ¹⁶ Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? ¹⁷ But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. ¹⁸ Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. Romans 6:15-18 (KJV)

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 1 Peter 1:18 (KJV).

So this is the big picture of Redemption

We all are born into the slave market of Sin. We could not purchase (redeem) ourselves from that condition. And only a Kinsman could do so. The wonderful conclusion of the matter is that Jesus Christ became our brother (Kinsman – see [Heb 2:14-18](#)) so that he could purchase our freedom.

Let's take another look at our passage in Job: **²⁵ I know that my Redeemer lives, and that *in the end he will stand upon the earth.*** Now turn to Revelation

⁶ And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. ⁷ And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. ⁸ And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. ⁹ And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; ¹⁰ And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. Revelation 5:6-10 (KJV).

This passage and comments related to it can be found on my other Bible study web site at:

<http://www.w1vtp.com/victory.htm>

Oh, this is a glorious conclusion to the Scarlet Thread! The figure of standing refers to the deliverer / redeemer / avenger standing to take action. This is the conclusion of the matter of our redemption. We have traced the whole matter of redemption from beginning to End where we rejoice that Jesus Christ our Redeemer will stand in the last day and we will be among the countless righteous – along with Job – in celebration of this wonderful journey of Redemption.