

## Job 19:25-27 The Worldview of Job

When we read through the Bible, we see that life is short and full of troubles. God's people have always suffered, whether it is because of righteousness as we live differently than the world and are persecuted, or whether we suffer alongside the world because of sin (as with COVID-19). These truths are always happening at the same time. But, we have a great advantage. Why? Because we believe and understand the truth about this world. Our worldview is different. And our source of truth is the Word of God. Today, we have the full canon of Scripture as God has given us everything we need for life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3). Also, we are in the days of the Gospel, the "last days." We look back upon the pinnacle of God's revelation in Christ. Heb. 1:1-3: **"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high . . ."** And, the only thing we await is the return of Christ which will usher in the consummation of all things.

But, this was not the case with Job. Most biblical scholars say that Job was older than the patriarchs of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. His life comes before these men and God's revelations to them. He did not have the Law of Moses, the Book of the Law. He did not have the blessing of a godly king, or the mediation of priests to instruct him in the ways of worship and sacrifice. He did not have the tabernacle or the temple. However, as we read the Book, we see that the foundations of his faith are the same as ours. And we are not surprised. It was the same Spirit of God that revealed those things to him. We can also say that Job's worldview was very much the same as ours today. The difference is that we look back upon a great history of fulfillment, particularly the Gospel of Christ, and through which we must preach the Book of Job. With this in mind, I want us to see certain truths that shaped the worldview of Job, and that which gave him such great comfort. And in doing this, we will also see that our worldview is the same, which will also help us navigate these days. I have 4 truths

1. God is the Living God. Job is very aware of his own suffering and death, and in his mind it will come soon. Look back at 17:1: **"My spirit is broken; my days are extinct; the graveyard is ready for me."** And it seems that he has no hope. In 17:13-16 he says, **"If I hope for Sheol as my house, if I make my bed in darkness, if I say to the pit, 'You are my father,' and to the worm, 'My mother,' or 'My sister,' where then is my hope? Who will see my hope? Will it go down to the bars of Sheol? Shall we descend together into the dust?"** And then in 19:25 as he considers this truth, by faith, he says, **"I know that my Redeemer lives . . ."** His faith is in the God who lives. This was fundamental to his worldview and an anchor for his soul.

Do you remember what young David said when he heard the words of Goliath? He said, **"Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"** (1 Sam. 17:26). Do you remember when the armies of Assyria were camped outside Jerusalem during Isaiah's time? And by faith, King Hezekiah prays, **"Incline your ear, O LORD, and hear; open your eyes, O LORD, and see; and hear the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to mock the living God"** (2 Kings 19:16). In Psalm 84:2 the Psalmist says, **"My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God."**

**“But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King.”** Brothers and sisters, our God is the living God.

Now, I must ask, *“How does this truth shape our worldview?”* With sickness, suffering, and death all around us, God is alive. And our hope is in Him. He is the ONLY source of life. He created all things; He created us. And He breathed the breath of life into us as special image bearers of himself. The atheist has no hope. To him there is no God who lives. To those who put their trust in the idols of this world, there is no hope. For the idols of this world do not live. They will pass away. And did you know the apostle Paul says this is the reason we go and tell a world that is dying. Paul says, **“For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.”** What an opportunity now during this particular crisis as people are thinking about scared about sickness, and the thought of dying. God is the living God! Now, a 2<sup>nd</sup> truth. In this passage we see . . .

2. A God who will raise the dead. In v. 26, Job says, ***“I will see him.”*** Here we see that Job believes that after he dies, he will live and see God. Now, we do not know exactly how much Job understood or knew about the Messiah, or the resurrection of the Messiah. But, we do know that he believed in a general resurrection of the dead. And clearly, he believed as a man of faith, that He would see God one day. And this brought great hope to his suffering; that one day he would rise again to see God and under different circumstances. Now, I do not believe Job had a particular understanding of the resurrection body as we find with Paul in 1 Cor. 15. But, the truth, we might say, the “seed” of the resurrection was there. And like us, this was essential to his worldview.

There are many in this world who do not believe in the resurrection of the dead. Much of the world says, *“eat, drink, be merry, for tomorrow you die.”* Even some religious persons do not believe in the resurrection. Do you remember the Saducees? They were strong religious Jews, many of them of the upper class, many of them were in charge of temple duties. And they came to Jesus to test him. And they said, Jesus, you know that if a man is married to a woman and he dies, then his brother must take her as his wife so she he can provide for her. Well, let’s say a woman is married and her husband dies. His brother takes her as wife. Then, he dies, and the next brother takes her. Then, he dies and the next brother takes her. And so it goes with 7 brothers and they have all had her as their wife. And as they try to use this illustration as a way to deny the resurrection of the dead they ask Jesus, “in the resurrection, whose wife will she be.” And Jesus replies, **“You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not God of the dead, but of the living.”** And when the crowd heard it, they were **astonished at his teaching**” (Matt. 22).

When the Apostle was being put on trial by the Jews of Jerusalem, he sees there are both Pharisees and Sadducees in the group. And he says **“it is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial”** (Acts 23:6). Of course, we know this is in respect to Jesus’ resurrection (which I will come to shortly). But for now, the truth that God will raise

the dead is so important for our worldview. It is the source of great hope for the one who trusts in God. Abraham knew that God could raise his son Isaac from the dead (Heb. 11:19). If you go to Heb. 11 and see all the hall of “faith” you will see that all of them died, having not received the promises. But, they believed in the resurrection of the dead. Brothers and sisters, so do we! This is essential to our worldview.” This means when we talk to our neighbors, our thoughts go beyond this world and the grave and look to a bodily resurrection where we will see God.

3. God is a God who saves. Look again at v. 25. Job says, “**I know my REDEEMER lives.**” If Job is a very old book, this shows that the idea of a redeemer goes way back in history. So, what is a redeemer? We see this explained by Moses. When hard times fell on someone financially because of difficulties, or if a husband were to die and the family would have to sell or lose their possessions, it was expected that the closest relative buy or take possession and provide for that family. Lev. 25:25: “**If your brother becomes poor and sells part of his property, then his nearest redeemer shall come and redeem what his brother has sold.**” In this way, the redeemer acts as a savior to the one who is about to lose his possessions. He buys them for the one who has no money or assets.

For Job, as one who was suffering, having lost his children, his cattle and livestock, his houses, his health, his standing in the community, his reputation, his relationship with his wife, his ability to maintain and keep his possessions, if there was anyone who needed a redeemer, it was Job. But Job does not look to an earthly redeemer. He looks to a heavenly redeemer, one who lives. And he even says in v. 25 that “**at the last he will stand upon the earth . . .**” And this redeemer is who . . . God himself.

Oh, what a beautiful picture, as Job looks forward to the fulfilment of these words. What a beautiful faith as Job looks to his ONLY hope! In these words of hope, we see the incarnation of the Son of God as one who stood on this earth. “***And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth***” (John 1:14). And why did he come? He came as a savior, a redeemer. And he didn’t come to redeem our land and our possessions. He came to redeem us, sinners, those who have rebelled against their maker, those who have fallen short of God’s glory, those who have lost all hope for life. “**For the wages of sin is death . . .**” (Rom. 6:23). And in Job’s response of hope we also see the price of redemption. It is the blood of Christ, the precious blood of Christ! He laid down his life as a substitute sacrifice for sinners. In their place he stood. This is the cross of Christ!

If you are a Christian, if you have believed on the Lord Jesus, if you have received him and your faith rests upon him, you have been redeemed. The Son of God has purchased your salvation, your freedom. Your past, your present, and your future sins have been laid upon Christ. And now there is no condemnation from the father, no chance to lose what he has purchased for you. You are secure! And that’s not all. In Job’s words, we also see a “living redeemer.” Yes, he died, but he rose again. John Mark records these words: “**When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled**

**back—it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him”** (Mark 16:1-6).

Today, there is no body in the tomb where they laid him. It is empty! It is empty today! And it will be empty for eternity! For death could not hold him! The resurrection of Christ the Redeemer is God’s stamp upon all of his work. After all . . . He is the living God. And He raises the dead. Brothers and sisters, there is nothing lacking in your redemption. It is finished! And our Lord, hasn’t only been raised from the dead, he now has ascended to heaven where he sits and where he reigns until He comes again. Let’s move to our final truth. We see . . .

4. A God who makes all things new. I think we see this throughout this text. But especially look at v. 26: **“And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God.”** I do not believe Job understood what some of the writers of the NT understood and what we understand today. But again, here we see the “seed” of this truth that is fulfilled in Christ. Job looked forward to a new day when all things would be made right, all things new, beginning with his own body, as body and soul would be joined again one day. Look at v. 20: **“My bones stick to my skin and to my flesh, and I have escaped by the skin of my teeth.”** Look again at 17:13-16: **“If I hope for Sheol as my house, if I make my bed in darkness, if I say to the pit, ‘You are my father,’ and to the worm, ‘My mother,’ or ‘My sister,’ where then is my hope? Who will see my hope? Will it go down to the bars of Sheol? Shall we descend together into the dust?”** When Job considered his own body, I think he knew it would soon be a feast for the worms. But, in great hope, he looked forward to a new body in the presence of God. His body would see corruption. But, Christ’s body would not. And here his hope was found. And not only his body and soul would be renewed, but all of creation. And here we have much more to say than Job.

Now, as we read these words from Job, we know these truths are fulfilled in the resurrection of Christ, In this context from Rom. 8 we read: **“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved”** (Rom. 8:18-24). And in Rev. 21:5 the Lord Jesus says: **“Behold, I am making all things new.”**

Beloved, no matter what time of history we live, these same truths are the essence of our worldview. Now, let me try and sum up this morning. We serve a living God. He is not the God of the dead, but of the living. He has given us life and He sustains life. And we have no hope for any breath if He is not the God of the living. As we look around at the death around us, we know that life will win. God is the God of life and death has been conquered. He will raise the dead. In this we find hope.

Also, our worldview says that God is a God who enters our world as a savior, a redeemer. **“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.”** In Christ, He is making all things new. This means that what we see now on this earth will not continue in the new heavens and the new earth. And in this lies our hope. And if this is our worldview, if by faith, and we really believe these things, how can there be anything but hope.

So today, be encouraged with these words. We serve a living God! And he will raise the dead. And we know this because Jesus, the Son of God, has conquered death. And his resurrection is the firstfruits of a new heaven and a new earth where God will make all things new.