

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Adult Bible Class
The Book of Job
October 28, 2020

“Oh, that my words were recorded,
that they were written on a scroll,
²⁴ that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead,
or engraved in rock forever!
²⁵ ***I know that my redeemer lives,***
and that in the end he will stand on 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 19:23-27

Job’s bold confession of a “redeemer” is the highlight of his responses to his 3 friends who have come to administer their particular brand of comfort. In the face of their accusations Job, confesses hope in a helper, an advocate and a mediator who will plead his case in the heavenly counsels and restore him again. From a Christian perspective it is impossible not to see this as a prophecy about Christ. However, did Job understand it that way?

The kinsman-redeemer became a well-established institution in the life of the people of Israel. The redeemer was a family member who intervenes to assist a person in the family to rescue and restore them from misfortune.

- Leviticus 25:25 -- “If one of your fellow Israelites becomes poor and sells some of their property, their nearest relative is to come and redeem what they have sold.”
- Deuteronomy 19:12 – “the killer shall be sent for by the town elders, be brought back from the city, and be handed over to the avenger of blood to die.”

The best-known case of a person acting as a redeemer is in the book of Ruth, where Boaz marries Ruth who is related to him by marriage in order to preserve the family of Ruth’s mother-in-law, Naomi, who has lost her husband and her two sons. (see Ruth 2:17-4:15)

God is also a redeemer of his people.

- Exodus 6:6 – “Therefore, say to the Israelites: ‘I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment.’”
- Psalm 103:4 – “[God] redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion”
- Hosea 13:14 -- “I shall ransom them from the power of Sheol; I shall redeem them from Death.
O Death, where are your plagues? O Sheol, where is your sting?”

Did Job understand the full import of his words? Maybe, maybe not. What is clear however, is that he trusted God to provide a redeemer (perhaps a friend or an angel??) to stand up for him and plead his case in the heavenly councils. What we know from the perspective of the New Testament is that he had a Redeemer. No one less than the Second Person of the Holy Trinity – God the Son – would redeem him and all creation from the power of death.

- Romans 3:24 – “all are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus”
- Ephesians 1:7 – “in him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins”
- Hebrews 9:12 -- “but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.”
- 1 Peter 1:18-20 – “you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you”

Job and Jesus

Job’s hope for a Redeemer is the cornerstone of his faith. It is also one aspect of how Job connects us to Jesus. It has been said that ***Jesus is the true and better Job*** and that in Job’s sufferings we are given a glimpse into the suffering of Christ himself.

From the vantage point of the New Testament, the shadow of Christ looms over much of the book of Job. Every element in the story of Job escalates in the story of Christ. Job enjoyed the favor and blessing of God as no other man did in his lifetime, but he was cast down from his exalted position to experience the darkest realms of human suffering, just short of the point of death. However extreme his case may be, it only reflects, but does not truly approximate, the humiliation of the Son of God. The beloved Son, in whom the Father was well pleased, (Matt 3:17), full of grace and truth (John 1:14), came from heaven and was tested beyond the point of death (Phil 2:6–8). And, in all his suffering, the Lord Jesus “was faithful to him who appointed him” (Heb 3:2).

Here are some important parallels between Job and Christ:

Both cry out to God as “innocent” sufferers

Job 10:1 – “I will give free course to my complaint”

Hebrews 5:7 – Jesus “offered up prayers and supplications with vehement cries and tears.”

Matthew 26:39 – “O my Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me.”

Both struggle with “Why?”

Job 7:20 “If I sin, what do I do to you, you watcher of mankind? Why have you made me your mark? Why have I become a burden to you?”

Job 9:17 – “For he crushes me with a tempest and multiplies my wounds without cause”

Matthew 27:46 – “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me.”

Both endure miserable comforters

Job 16:2 – “Miserable comforters are you all”

Psalm 69:20 -- “Reproaches have broken my heart, so that I am in despair. I looked for pity, but there was none, and for comforters, but I found none.

Both are Kings and Priests

Job 19:9 – “He has stripped from me my glory and taken the crown from my head”

Job 1:5 – “And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and consecrate them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, “It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts.” Thus Job did continually.

Hebrews 5:7-10 “In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. ⁸ Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. ⁹ And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, ¹⁰ being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.”



These parallels are not accidental or coincidental. Job is a “type” of Christ. In his life he prefigures the life of Christ and serves in the same way as other greats of the Old Testament. Job certainly did not know how all the details of his life were foreshadowing the coming Messiah, but he is nonetheless caught up in a story far beyond himself and his family.

Job’s Final Defense - Job 29-31

Like many of his other prayers, Job’s plea for a mediator, an advocate and a redeemer seems to fall on deaf ears. No one takes up his case and he is left to defend himself. His final speech comes in Job 29 -31. To borrow terms from the theatre, it is a soliloquy. Job turns his attention from his friends and addresses the audience. It is a bit of a stretch, but in this final speech we hear echoes of the life of Christ.

Job 29 – The Early Days

In the first chapter of his final argument, Job looks back over his life and recounts the blessings he had before his world was turned upside down. He uses a classical pattern to his speech that begins with a recounting of his blessings

Job 29:1-6 – Blessings “my path was drenched with cream.”

Job 29:7-10 – Honour “young men saw me and stepped aside”

Job 29:11-17 – Benevolence – “I rescued the poor, made the widow’s heart sing, was eyes to the blind, a father to the needy, broke the fangs of the wicked”

Job 29: 18-20 – Blessing “I will die in my own house, my days as numerous as the grains of sand”

Job 29:21:25 – Honour – “Men listened to me expectantly”

Job 30 – His Present Sufferings

“But now they mock me” (v. 1)

“they do not hesitate to spit in my face” (v. 10)

“And now my life ebbs away; days of suffering grip me” (v. 16)

“I have become a brother of jackals, a companion of owls” (v. 29)

Job 31 – Yet I am Righteous

Job 31:1-12 – My heart is pure (Adultery)

Job 31: 13-23 – I have been just

Job 31:24-28 – My heart is pure (Covetousness, Idolatry)

Job 31:29 -34 – I have not rejoiced in the misfortune of others

Job 31:35 – 40 – Job’s final Plea – “Let the Almighty answer me! ... The Words of Job are ended. “

Like Job we await God’s answer!