

JOB’S AMAZING STATEMENT: “MY REDEEMER LIVES”

INTRODUCTION

One of the most amazing statements found in the Bible is in Job chapter nineteen. It’s a statement that knits the Old and New Testaments together. It’s the central focus of the Bible. It’s a statement that reveals the most important accomplishment of God. It gives us incredible insight into the person of Jesus Christ. The statement was made in Job 19:25. Job said, “As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth.”

To appreciate the significance of what Job said there are several things we should understand:

1. Job made his statement at least 2,200 years before Jesus Christ brought it to fruition.
2. Job made his statement while going through a horrific tragedy. He lost all of his sons and daughters, his servants, his livestock and his livelihood.¹ He went from riches to rags all in one day. His wealth was gone.
3. Job made his statement while going through a severe health problem. He had a skin disease that covered his body with boils. He was in agony.² His appearance made him a social outcast.³ Even his wife found him repulsive and wanted him to die.⁴

Job was at the bottom of the barrel of life with no place to look but up. It was while Job was in the midst of his suffering that he made his amazing statement about his Redeemer.

Job’s statement reveals several things about his faith, his relationship with God and His Redeemer. It sets an example for us to follow. His statement should cause every one of us to be in awe of God.

THE REDEEMER IS PERSONAL

Job said, “And as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives.” We should underline the words “I know” in our Bibles. Job declared his personal faith, his confidence and his trust in his Redeemer in the midst of his trials. That very powerful declaration honored and glorified God. It took Job’s focus off his problems and placed it on the One who could resolve his problems. However, it also revealed Job’s resolve to be faithful to his God no matter what his circumstances might be and no matter what the ultimate outcome might be.

Job looked death in the eye and said, “I know that my Redeemer lives.” We should underline the words “my Redeemer” in our Bibles. Job had a personal relationship with his Redeemer. It’s the same kind of personal relationship that we can have today with the same Redeemer. Job did not have religion. Rather, he had a personal relationship with the only true and living God, his Redeemer.

THE REDEEMER IS GOD

In the context of Job 19:25-26, the Redeemer is none other than God Himself. The word “God” in the Hebrew language is “Elohim.”⁵ It reveals that God is the strong all-powerful faithful One who created all things. The Creator of heaven and earth is the Redeemer.

In Psalm 19:14 king David said, “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.” The word “LORD” (in all capital letters) in the Hebrew language is “Yahweh.” It’s the primary name for God in the Old Testament.⁵ David clearly stated that God is the Redeemer. The prophet Isaiah essentially said the same thing in Isaiah 47:4. He said, “Our Redeemer, the LORD of hosts is His name, the Holy One of Israel.” Job’s declaration, as well as the entire Old Testament, clearly teaches that the Redeemer is none other than God Himself.

When we turn to the New Testament it states that Jesus is the Redeemer. We are told in Colossians 1:13-14, “For He (God the Father) delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son (Jesus Christ), in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” Jesus is the Redeemer and for Jesus to be the Redeemer, according to the Old Testament Scripture, He had to be God. Therefore, the apostle Paul clearly presented Jesus as the Creator of all things in whom “all the fulness of Deity dwells in bodily form.”⁶

When we compare passages like Colossians 1:13-16 with Isaiah 44:24 we discover that the One who created all things, the LORD/Yahweh, is Jesus the Redeemer. God the Creator and God the Redeemer are the same person. As Jesus said in John 10:30, “I and the Father are one.” As the apostle Peter said, in Acts 4:12, “And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.” There is only one Redeemer, God Himself.

THE REDEEMER IS HUMAN

Job reinforced the fact that Jesus is the Redeemer by using a very interesting Hebrew word for “Redeemer.” He used the word “goel” which refers to a “Kinsmen-redeemer.” In other words, God the Redeemer had to become our kinsmen before He could become our Redeemer. He had to be related to those He redeemed. He had to enter the human

race in order to pay the price for our redemption and to give us forgiveness of sin. The price that He had to pay was death through the shedding of His blood upon the cross.⁷

Every time the word “Redeemer” is used in the Old Testament it is the word “goel” referring to a “Kinsmen-redeemer.” For God to be the Redeemer for all people He had to be a family member to both Jew and Gentile. Jesus is the only person in history that has fulfilled this requirement. It is indisputably documented through His lineage. We see this in the book of Ruth. Boaz (a Jew) married Ruth (a Gentile). Through the marriage of Ruth and Boaz came their son Obed, who was the father of Jesse, who was the father of David through whom came Marry and Joseph, the earthly parents of Jesus. The Kinsmen-Redeemer, Jesus Christ, entered the human race.⁷

Job also said, in Job 19:25, “And at the last He will take His stand on the earth.” In other words, He will be a real person. That is exactly what Jesus did as God the Redeemer. There could be no redemption if He was not a very man a very man and a very God a very God.

THE REDEEMER IS LIVING

In Job 19:25, Job said, “My Redeemer lives.” The Redeemer not only had to be God, but also living, still living. He not only had to enter the human race and pay the price for our redemption, but also He had to remain living. There can be no redemption by a dead redeemer. For that to happen He would need to be resurrected from the dead to live forever more. The resurrection of Christ is inseparable from the redemption process.⁸

Job reinforced the fact that the Redeemer is living in Job 19:26-27a. He said, “Even after my skin is destroyed, yet from my flesh I shall see God; whom I myself shall behold, and whom my eyes shall see and not another.” Job believed that even after his death he too would be resurrected in bodily form to see his God and Redeemer. We are to have the same expectation today.⁹

Of all the billions upon billions of people to walk this planet only one fulfilled perfectly all the Biblical requirements for a Redeemer. That is Jesus.

THE REDEEMED ARE TO SAY SO

Job revealed his deepest desire in Job 19:23-24. He said, “Oh that my words were written down! Oh that they were inscribed in a book! That with an iron stylus and lead they were engraved in the rock forever!” This is a desire that every person that has been redeemed through the blood of Jesus Christ should have. Job’s wanted his testimony, his story, written down for all to see and read. When we trust Jesus as our Redeemer, then our heart’s desire should be to have our testimony go on record. As the Psalmist said in Psalm 107:1-2, “Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His lovingkindness is everlasting.

Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom He has redeemed from the hand of the adversary.”

One of the greatest things that we can ever do is to write down our story. We should explain the events that led us to receive Jesus Christ as our Redeemer. We should share our story with our children, our children’s children and their children. Even the children yet to be born. We should share our story so all who read it may come to know Jesus as their personal Savior and Lord. We should share our story in a way that encourages those who read it to walk faithfully with God and not forget what He has done.¹⁰ Our Redeemer lives.

References:

1. See Job 1:13-19
2. See Job 2:7-8
3. See Job 19:13-19
4. See Job 2:9
5. See Rembert, David E. *What’s His Name?* Maitland, Florida: Xulon Press, 2009.
6. See Colossians 1:15-16, Colossians 2:9
7. See Philippians 2:5-8
8. See Romans 10:9-10, 1 Corinthians 15:12-14
9. See 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17
10. See Psalm 78:1-7