



Thesis: Life often does not make sense, beats us down, and brings about much suffering - it's just a fact of life. However, we like Job and many of the Old Testament saints exclaim, "I Know My Redeemer Lives!"

Introduction:

1. As I think about the last 12 months I praise God because He is good all the time. This does not mean that there has been no suffering, no pain, no tears and no death. Suffering is a part of this broken world, suffering is a part of this decaying world, suffering is the direct result of sin!
2. My suffering (emotional and physical), your suffering (emotional and physical) has prompted me to talk about depression, pain, anguish and the raw emotions that sin causes.
3. Some have been brought low to the point of questioning everything that is good, holy and righteous-even the goodness of God.
4. I want to help you understand some truths about suffering, but more importantly about our reward.
5. Jesse Pounds and Beautiful Isle of Somewhere (Winter 1896 in Indianapolis, Indiana) (Revelation 21:23)
 - a. **Somewhere the sun is shining, Somewhere the songbirds dwell; Hush, then, thy sad repining, God lives, and all is well.**
 - b. **Somewhere, somewhere, Beautiful Isle of Somewhere! Land of the true, where we live anew, Beautiful Isle of Somewhere!**
 - c. **Somewhere the day is longer, Somewhere the task is done; Somewhere the heart is stronger, Somewhere the prize is won.**
 - d. **Somewhere the load is lifted, Close by an open gate; Somewhere the clouds are rifted, Somewhere the angels wait.**
6. Job 19 outline: 2-6-Job's condemnation of his friends, 7-20-Job's complaint against God's destruction of his life, 21-29-Job's hope for a Redeemer. (Hooks)
 - I. Brief discussion of text
 - II. Job's WHY? Life is confusing and sometimes not even our friends understand (Job 19:2-6)
 - A. There are times when we cannot understand the "Why" of our suffering

1. There is suffering that is brought about because of our own sin (1 Peter 2:20 - “For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.”)
 2. There is suffering that is brought about because of someone else’s sin (Joshua 7- The whole nation suffered defeat at Ai because of Achan’s sin, and Naboth lost his life because of Jezebel and Ahab’s treachery.)
- B. Job’s friends had accused him of hiding sin in his heart, they even felt self-righteous about it (Job 19:5)
1. There is suffering that cannot be explained, yet accepted at time and chance happening to all (Job 19:6; Ecclesiastes 9:11-12)
 2. Indeed the suffering Job was experiencing was because of sin Genesis 3; Romans 8:22-23)
- C. There is a moment during Job’s sufferings that he had some clarity as to his own faith, dedication and reward:
1. Lost his property-not through his fault
 2. Lost his children-nothing he did to deserve this
 3. Lost his health (skin for skin-Job 2:12; Job 19:19-20; Job 30:30)-did nothing to deserve this
 4. Job 19:25-Whatever the reason for my suffering, whatever is going on in heaven and on earth, whether I have friends to encourage me, whether I have a wife who will stand by side, whether I have a full quiver of children...or not..I do know that my Redeemer lives and in His time He will bring relief and reward.
 5. The Unclouded Day: “O they tell me of a home far beyond the skies, O they tell me of a home far away; O they tell me of a home where no storm clouds rise; O they tell me of an uncloudy day. **O the land of cloudless day, O the land of an uncloudy day. O they tell me of a home where no storm-clouds rise, O they tell me of an uncloudy day.** O they tell me of a home where my friends have gone, O they tell me of that land far away, Where the tree of life in eternal bloom Sheds its fragrance through the uncloudy day. **O they tell me of a King in His beauty there, And they tell me that mine eyes shall behold Where He sits on the throne that is whiter than snow, In the city that is made of gold.** O they tell me that He smiles on His children there, And His smile drives their sorrows all away; And they tell me that no tears ever come again, In that lovely land of uncloudy day. (“The Unclouded Day”)
- III. Job’s WHAT: Sometimes our suffering adds to the confusion and brings us into a depression (Job 19:7-20)
- A. Job moved from the WHY to the WHAT and WHO (is at fault)
1. Job wrongly accuses God as the source of his suffering. The devil is the source of all of our suffering. However, at Job’s lowest point in his life he accuses God.
 - a. Job 19:7-“I ask for help, and no one helps, not even God. Therefore it must be God who is afflicting me.” (*paraphrased by ETR*)

- b. Job 19:8-12 - “God has cast me down, way down, I am in such a dark place right now. I do not know where to turn.” (ibid). So many of us have experienced depression, it is dark, cold, lonely and painful. Those who experience true depression are scared and don’t want to be in that dark place.
 - 1. Friends has left him (Job 19:13).
 - 2. Relatives no longer wanted to come by to visit or offer comfort (Job 19:13-14).
 - 3. The people he had taken care of now don’t return the hospitality and see him as a stranger (Job 19:15).
 - 4. He has to beg his servants to help him (Job 19:16).
 - 5. His wife doesn’t want to come close because his breath stinks, his own kin think he is nasty - his sores had crusted over with black skin (Job 30:30)- (Job 19:17).
 - 6. The children who respected their elders no longer respected Job, he was a sight for scorn and sport (Job 19:18).
 - 7. The people he had loved (possibly those he had helped financially) hated him (Job 19:19).
 - 8. He had withered away to nothing but skin and bones and was surviving by the “skin of my teeth.” (Job 19:20).
- 2. In his suffering he was desperate to find a reason, at the very least, for his suffering.
- B. Sometimes things just don’t make sense, and it is understandable, while not justifiable, to wonder if it is God’s fault. Since it is God who has the power to save, rescue and heal, then maybe it is God who is striking us. But this line of reasoning is clouded with pain and suffering-it is not true, it is not accurate. Sin is the reason and the devil is the afflicter:
 - 1. Genesis 1-3 and Job 1-2 Explain the source of suffering
 - 2. God, the Architect, Designer, and Creator of the Universe (chapter 1), man, the creature made in the image of God; and Satan, the adversary who seduced man to disobey, thus ushering in pain and suffering as a result of sin (chapter 3). (Hailey 169–178, Appendix D)
- C. It was the Devil who caused Jesus to suffer (“Get thee behind me Satan - Matthew 16:22-23) and caused His anguish in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36ff).
- IV. The ultimate answer is the hope that Our Redeemer lives-What cannot be comprehended through reason must be embraced by love and faith. (Job 19:21-29)
 - A. Job was convinced that he would not receive vindication during his lifetime, so he turns to the eternal hope of God’s plan and its unfolding (Romans 8:28) (Hooks) Job wants his case to be recorded for eternity, he want it to be known forever that he claimed innocence. (Job 19:23-24)
 - B. He resigns himself and expresses his faith: “As for me I now that my Redeemer lives, and at last He will take His stand on the earth.” (Job 19:25)
 - 1. Job understood that everything: his home, his money, his children, his health, even his life were all temporal. But that what was not temporary was God and his soul.

2. Job did not cling on to his possessions as if he was going to live on earth forever. Those things pass.
3. There is a reason why the Jew was not allowed to own any land permanently (Leviticus 25:23), only 50 years and then the land was redeemed by someone else.
4. Job understood that he was but a Wayfaring Stranger in this World of Woe.
 - a. I'm just a poor wayfaring stranger, Traveling through this world below, There is no sickness, no toil, nor danger, In that bright land to which I go...
 - b. I'm going there to see my Father, And all my loved ones who've gone on, I'm just going over Jordan, I'm just going over home...
 - c. I know dark clouds will gather 'round me, I know my way is hard and steep, But beauteous fields arise before me, Where God's redeemed, their vigils keep, I'm going there to see my Mother, She said she'd meet me when I come...
 - d. So, I'm just going over Jordan, I'm just going over home, I'm just going over Jordan, I'm just going over home... ("Wayfaring Stranger")
- C. When our life is shattered and we feel hopeless understand that many have gone through the same thing, those of the O. T. suffered much and never received the promises in their lifetime:
 1. Hebrews 11:13 - They lived and survived by faith that one day they would receive a reward in heaven. Our life in this broken world is only for a while, heaven is eternal. *(Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." John 8:56; Moses - Hebrews 11:26; 1 Peter 1:10-12)*
 2. Hebrews 3:13 - We should always encourage one another to remain faithful, provide a shoulder to lean on and a prayer of encouragement so that no one will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.
 3. Hebrews 6:11
 4. Understand that we are looking for a better home in heaven:
 - a. Revelation 21:23 There are no cloudy days in heaven because God is the Eternal LIGHT.
 - b. Hebrews 12:28; 13:14

Conclusion: I know my Redeemer lives!

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