

I know that my Redeemer lives Job 19:25

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you Lord, my rock and my redeemer. Amen Psalm 19:14

I know that my Redeemer liveth..... I wonder what comes to mind when you hear those words? For many of us it may be the Aria from Handels Messiah. I wont endeavour to sing it for you!

I cannot recall having preached on the book of Job before. It is not an easy book of the Bible to read or to understand.

For those who don't know the book it is basically a conversation between a man named Job and a few of his friends.

Job was a healthy, wealthy, God fearing family man who is systematically beaten down emotionally, physically and almost spiritually.

Job and his friends try to find reason & find meaning in all that happens to him but in the midst of everything, in all that has stricken him, whilst at his lowest ebb, he says

O that my words were written down!

O that they were inscribed in a book!

O that with an iron pen and with lead
they were engraved on a rock forever!

FOR I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES,

and that at the last he will stand upon the earth

For I know that my REDEEMER lives!

The hebrew word that is used here for Redeemer is the same as that for a 'kinsmen redeemer' or 'kinsmen avenger'

A kinsmen redeemer was someone who could purchase their close relative from slavery, they could pay a sum of money in order to release their relative from being a slave.

A kinsmen redeemer could reclaim and restore a persons property to them

A kinsmen avenger could provide justice on behalf of their relative, they could go to court on behalf of their wronged relative and ensure their freedom

You can read more about them in Leviticus 25 and Proverbs 23 if you want to

Job was saying then. in effect, that he knew he had a Redeemer, someone who would ensure his release, ensure that justice was done, ensure that all would be restored.

What confidence, assurance, trust Job had
And this was all at least 600 years before Christ.

Job knew he had a Redeemer and was so confident that he would have written it in lead on a rock for all to read forever if he had had the means to do so.

I KNOW that my Redeemer lives said Job, in the midst of all his pain and suffering, 600 yrs BC

Do we have that same confidence 2000 yrs after Christ?

And Job was confident of his future vindication

Despite all his friends were saying and all that his circumstances suggested, Job was confident that in the future he would see God on his side and he would be cleared of blame.

He would be vindicated by his Redeemer

Job lived pre Jesus life, death, resurrection and ascension

We all live post Jesus life, death, resurrection and ascension

We come to communion each week and remember Christs broken body and blood outpoured

Do we have the same confidence as Job... that our REDEEMER LIVES?

I know that my Redeemer LIVES

Christ died on the cross as our Redeemer, in order that we might be set free from the slavery of sin, the stuff that we do and say and think that causes separation between us and God
He rose from the dead in order that death be defeated
He Ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father, so that one day we shall see God, whom we shall see on our side, and our eyes shall behold, and not another.

Jesus is our redeemer, the one people have hoped for and believed in for about 3,500 years so far. Like the Old Testament kinsman-redeemer, Jesus stands ready to reclaim and restore our place in his kingdom, rescue us from death, free us from slavery to sin, and be our advocate before the Father — an eternal parallel to the kinsman-redeemer authority of the Old Testament regarding this world.

Later in the book of Job, God restores Job to prosperity, family life, health, and longevity, but these are by then secondary matters to Job
What really matters is that Job now has a living relationship with God.

By saying so firmly that he knew of his Redeemer, Job was proclaiming that he believed that in the end there would be justice and mercy.

Living post Jesus we too can be assured of God's justice and mercy. It is Jesus who brings together the holiness and love of God, the divine justice and mercy, and he does this in his sacrificial death on the cross. Because of Jesus' death, there is forgiveness of our sins.

Forgiveness is one of the Big Three Promises of the New Testament: **it takes care of our past.**

Job was certain that his Redeemer was alive - I know that my Redeemer lives

As Christians, we know the Redeemer's name: Jesus. And we know that he has been raised from the dead and exalted to the place of authority at the right hand of God to serve as our Advocate. He is the first born of the new creation, the guarantee that all who are found in him will share in his resurrected life. And we shall behold him!

Eternal life is one of the Big Three Promises of the New Testament: **it takes care of our future.**

But what about in the here and now, not just our past or future

Job was suffering, his life and faith were being tested in what we perceive to be unjust suffering
In the midst of all this Job had an assurance for the present life too.

We too can have that assurance and experience the presence of God.

Jesus promises that he will send his Holy Spirit to live in all those who believe in him, who are baptized into him, and who ask, seek, and knock. The Holy Spirit will confirm our faith in the good news; he will convict us of sin and give us the power to repent and to live a new life; he will guide us into truth and wisdom; he will renew our lives in the image of Jesus; he will empower us to serve Jesus with spiritual gifts; and he will comfort, encourage, and strengthen us when, like Job and Jesus, we undergo the testing of unjust suffering. There is no comfort like the presence of the living God!

The gift of the **Holy Spirit** is one of the Big Three Promises of the New Testament: **it takes care of our present life.**

Now what we need to ask ourselves is: Are we living our lives to get the whole good news? Do we have faith that Jesus can provide for our forgiveness (past), for our eternal life (future), and for the transforming power of the Holy Spirit in our lives (present)?

Do we live with the same assurance and reality in our everyday lives of forgiveness for things in the past, of assurance for our eternal life and the presence of Jesus with us through the Holy Spirit?

Sometimes we go through the motions of churchianity and miss the benefits and joy of what God wants to give us

The book of Job expresses a lot about the problem of unjust suffering. The answers Job found were not philosophical answers, were not pat formulas, but they were better by far.

In the end, the answer is not an explanation, but a living God!

Living as we do after Jesus death on the cross and resurrection, the Christian development of Job's answers are better yet: Forgiveness, Eternal Life, and the Holy Spirit.

They are available to all of us who believe in Jesus as our Redeemer

Each Sunday in our worship together we have a time of confession when we say sorry to God and ask his forgiveness and each Sunday we hear the words of absolution, reminding us that God has forgiven us for the things we say sorry for.

Do we live in the freedom of the forgiveness from things past that our Redeemer gives?

Each Sunday we say some form of statement of belief where we say that we believe in a risen Lord, a Redeemer who is alive.

Do we live with that assurance for our eternal future where we shall see alongside us our Redeemer?

Each Sunday as we come to communion, where we remember what our Redeemer has done for us, I say the words 'as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit...'

Do we know what it is to live each day with the comfort and power of the Holy Spirit within us, enabling us in our present life?

Job said, with confidence and boldness, in the midst of incredible suffering that I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES and that at the last he will stand upon the earth.

Do we too live our lives with that same confidence and assurance? for our past, future and our present.