

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 upon 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! (NIV 84)

Theme: Jesus—The Living Redeemer

1. He Lives!
2. We will live with him.

When Christians come up with a list of their favorite hymns, one of the hymns that shows up more often than not, is “I know that My Redeemer Lives.” It is a hymn that is sung every Easter—ironically, we will not be singing it during this service, but in our second service today. This hymn is also a popular one to sing at funerals.

It is obvious from the first line of the hymn that it is based on the words of our text today. In fact, it is the hymn that made these words of Job so well-known.

These words were spoken possibly 2000 years before Christ rose from the dead, yet Job could say, **I know that my Redeemer lives.** So today we take a look at the name of Jesus: the Living Redeemer. We see that even though he died, he lives; and we will live with him in heaven.

It is safe to say that, out side of Christ, Job suffered more than anyone who has ever lived. The precise nature of Job’s sickness is uncertain, but he had many symptoms. To name a few— he had painful festering sores over the whole body, scabs that peeled and became black, nightmares and hallucinations. He was so disfigured that his friends didn’t even recognize him. He was so repulsive that most people refused to look at him. He was in pain night and day, excessively thin,

constantly ran a fever, and to top it off—bad breath. But it wasn’t just physical things Job suffered through—it was also emotional. In one day all 10 of his children died. He also lost all of his possessions, flocks, and all but three of his servants. His friends who came to comfort him, didn’t comfort him at all. Instead, they accused Job of sinning and claimed that his children got what they deserved. Job’s wife was still alive. But she tried to convince him to reject God. She told him, **Curse God and die!**

Like Job, we too have problems that we face. Perhaps the problems are physical. You tore or broke something. And now you have to have to take time off, or use crutches. You just got diagnosed with a heart problem or some other medical condition. And soon you will have to have surgery followed by a long stint of physical therapy. You just got diagnosed with cancer. You could have surgery and go through chemo, but that may not work. Sooner or later the cancer will be too much, you will be a great amount of pain, before your organs shut down.

But we just not suffer physically, we also suffer emotionally. People we are close to reject us. They let us down. Our loved ones try to get us to disobey God’s will. They try to convince to us follow the reason of the world at the expense of God’s Word. Or perhaps someone you love is going through physical problems. And they aren’t going to be on this earth much longer. Like Job, we may suffer through many things in this life.

And yet, even though Job suffered so much, he still had confidence. **I know that my Redeemer Lives.** In the midst of suffering, Job didn’t focus on what he was going through. He looked ahead to his Redeemer. A Redeemer is one who buys back. It is one who pays a ransom price for someone else. When Jesus died on the cross he paid the price of our sins. His blood was the ransom. Christ is our Redeemer. So when Job was suffering he looked to the suffering of Christ.

He also looked at his resurrection. He looked ahead to today. And he saw one who defeated death. For three days after he died, Jesus rose from the dead. And now he lives. He lives eternally. Jesus proved he

has power over death by rising from the dead. And if Jesus has power over death, then he certainly has power over the things that cause death. If Jesus has the power to rise from the dead, then he has power over all things. Jesus has control over everything that was ailing Job. Both physical and emotional problems are no match for the one who rose from the dead. He can certainly deal with whatever problems you face.

Our living Redeemer gives us comfort when we face physical and emotional problems. But that is not all. Through his resurrection we see that he has power over our spiritual problems, including eternal damnation.

Even though Job had this great confession of faith, there were plenty of other times that his faith wasn't so great. Although he never lost his faith, he certainly was questioning God. He wondered why God was allowing this to happen to him. He thought he was being punished unfairly. And he accused God of being unjust. He wondered if God loved him. He wondered why God was purposely singling him out. He didn't think God was watching over him. And he began to complain about the Lord.

Our physical and emotional problems may lead us to the same place as Job. We may think that God isn't watching over us. That he isn't with us—but against us. Our problems may lead us to doubt God and his love. Or perhaps you even accuse God of making you suffer on purpose. And unjustly punishing you. God claims to love you, but why is he making you suffer.

Of course, that isn't our only spiritual problem. Our biggest problem is that we are sinners. We sin against God day after day. And our sins deserve nothing but God's wrath and punishment. We deserve to suffer forever in hell even for one little sin—let alone all the many sins we commit day after day.

But our Living Redeemer is the answer to our spiritual problems. As Job confessed, **In the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another.** At the end of the world, Christ will come again. And he will raise to life all our bodies—even those who have been dead for thousands of years. And

the bodies of all believers will live with him in heaven for eternity. Because he lives we too will live.

And there in heaven, we will see God with our own eyes. Here on earth, we are so sinful and God is so perfect, that we cannot see God in his full glory and live. But Christ is our Redeemer. He has removed the guilt of all our sins. So now, we can look at God and not be afraid of death. As John tells us in his first epistle, when (Christ) appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. We will see God as he is because we will be perfect as God. Perfect through our Living Redeemer

We can't wait for that day to come. We say along with Job, Oh how my heart yearns within me. We can't wait to spend eternity with our Savior. Until then, we have comfort. For no matter what we suffer through we know that it will end. No matter how hard our lives are here on earth, they are going to be that much better in heaven/ Whether it is physical or emotional—there will come a time when we will have no more pain. We don't need to know the "why." It's not for us to know. We just need to know that God is in control and one day we will have no more problems.

Oh, the sweet comfort this gives us. The living Redeemer is the answer to all our problems. For no matter what we suffer through Christ has power over it. His resurrection proves that he has power over death and so he certainly has power over the things that cause death. So when you suffer, think of Job who thought of Christ. And you can say along with Job, I know that my Redeemer lives. Amen.