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Job's Christ

"For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me," Job 19:25-27.

(Based upon a sermon preached by Rev Ivan Foster in Kilskeery Free Presbyterian Church on September 4th, 1994)

Knowing that such is the greatness of this text that no sermon of mine could do it justice, I feel I must return to it this Sabbath morning for one more look at its glorious message. I would like to highlight truths that I did not touch upon in our last study.

Job had little hope of ever seeing a restoration of that lost in his trial and little hope of ever being vindicated before his friends in his lifetime. But he did have a firm assurance of seeing just such a vindication one day. To that day he appeals in this great outburst of faith. I wish to look at these words and see Job's Christ.

I. THE KNOWLEDGE THAT JOB DISPLAYS.

I want us to see Job's Christ, the Redeemer he believed in. Many Christians today have a very faint impression or view of the Lord Jesus. They do not see Him as clearly as they once did and as clearly as they ought to and that is because there is something that has come between them and Christ and obscured their view of Him.

Job, even in the midst of his great trials had a clear view of the Saviour. May we share in Job's vision today.

1. He believed that Christ was then alive. This was a truth that 2000 years later was rejected. "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by," John 8:56-58. Abraham looked forward and saw Christ's day. Job had a consciousness of Christ living in his own day. What a glorious thing it is to live in the consciousness of Christ being alive!

Paul wrote: "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us," Hebrews 9:24.

What a joy to believe that "NOW" our Redeemer lives.

2. He believed that Christ was God. The One he calls his Redeemer he also calls God. This is a knowledge denied by many "learned" men today. There are men in high positions in "churches" who deny what Job believed! The deity of Christ is a solid Bible doctrine. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace," Isaiah 9:6. "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory," 1 Timothy 3:16.

Sadly, even true Christians can forget that Christ is God and allow doubts regarding His power and wisdom to cripple them.

3. He calls Him his Redeemer. The Hebrew word is 'Goel' which refers to the next of kin in whom was vested the right of redeeming any estate that had been sold. "If thy brother be waxen poor, and hath sold away some of his possession, and if any of his kin come to redeem it, then shall he redeem that which his brother sold," Leviticus 25:25. Job saw Christ as his next of kin to Whom fell the task of redeeming God's elect even at the price of His own blood. "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the



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which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood," Acts 20:28.

Job felt his own poverty especially at that time, considering what we are told in chapter 2 he had lost, but he knew that there was One Who would redeem and restore one day all that he had lost.

Such is the hope of all God's elect for whom God's Son acted on Calvary's cross when He offered Himself as a ransom for His people.

4. He saw Christ as the glorious Magistrate coming to judge the world. He and Enoch are among the very earliest prophets of the judgment of the world. "And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him," Jude 1:14-15.

That day is much closer for us. How much more conscious we ought to be of it!

5. He believed that Christ would raise him from the dead. As I have said, he did not seem to have much hope of a restoring of his standing and honour among his generation but he certainly was assured of a resurrection to happiness. Even the worms which would humble him even more than his present afflicted state could not stop that happening. Is this not what Paul spoke of in 1st Corinthians 15:42-43? "So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: it is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power." Paul again refers to this truth in 2 Corinthians 5:1. "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

II. THE LESSONS WE MAY LEARN FROM JOB'S GREAT CONFESSION.

1. We may enjoy full assurance of salvation in this life. Job was assured of his present and future standing in Christ. Even so it was with Paul. "For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day," 2 Timothy 1:12. Here is Paul's assurance regarding his past, his present and his future. He speaks of his assurance in his final epistle. "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing," 2 Timothy 4:8.

Do you have such assurance? It is a treasure worth obtaining at any cost!

2. The basis of all comfort. A clear view of Christ, His person and offices, is the only ground of true assurance. So said Paul. "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places," Ephesians 1:17-20. We must search the scriptures and pray for the Holy Spirit's enlightenment that we may know him. Paul was ready to forgo all things to enjoy this assurance and knowledge. "Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, and be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death," Philippians 3:8-10.

3. No matter how severe may be the affliction that comes upon us we need not lose that assurance. How terrible were the circumstances of Job at the time he uttered these words! It was not what was happening to him that dictated his state of soul and mind but what he saw in Christ. It is to be noted that



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after uttering this great cry, Job does not again lapse into such a spirit of complaint as he has on occasions up until this point. He seems to get the victory over his murmurings. With our eyes upon Christ we are enabled in patience to possess our souls, Luke 21:19.

With our eyes upon Christ we can rise triumphantly above our troubles and distresses.

May the Lord the comfort us through these words!

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