

Job Responds To
Bildad: My Redeemer
Lives
Chapter Nineteen

Job 19:1-6

“Then Job answered and said: “How long will you torment me and break me in pieces with words? These ten times you have cast reproach upon me; are you not ashamed to wrong me? And even if it be true that I have erred, my error remains with myself. If indeed you magnify yourselves against me and make my disgrace an argument against me, know then that God has put me in the wrong and closed his net about me.”

Job Feels Wronged

- Job feels wronged by his friends and God.
- We have seen over and over again how Job feels about the lack of compassion demonstrated to by his friends.
- Job points out to his friends that, “...if it be true that I have erred, my error remains with myself”.
- Job is basically saying that “if I have done something that makes me guilty to deserve this mistreatment then it is news to me, but know this it is God Who has wronged me”.

- “In a sense the Accuser was acting as the hand of God, for he had said to God, ‘But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh’ (2:5). And God had replied, ‘Very well, then, he is in your hands’ (2:6). So Job was not totally wrong when he said, ‘The hand of God has struck me’ (19:21).”-Smick, Elmer
- I believe that it is a normal human response to feel wronged by God when we are struck with devastating circumstances.

- When studying the Bible it becomes clear the angst that is felt in the lives of the people in their relationship with God when circumstances turn for the worst.
- The difference between Saul and David's attitude towards God when the going gets tough is the heart. Saul felt wronged by God and turned his heart inward and looked for answers from the witch of En-dor.
- David when he felt wronged by God turned his heart to God. David had a deep seeded relationship with God and trusted Him with his feelings of hurt and doubt.
- Our understanding of events that happen to us is flawed and we don't see everything clearly so it is better to trust in God than the answers of man.

Psalm 13

- “How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? Consider and answer me, O LORD my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death, lest my enemy say, “I have prevailed over him, lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken. But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me.”
- Throughout the Psalms there are these positive and negative charges for and against God that are the driving force of David’s relationship with God.

- “David moved from being depressed and feeling abandoned by God, to singing joy. “The fact that we feel abandoned itself means that we really know God is there. To be abandoned you need somebody to be abandoned by. Because we are Christians and have been taught by God in the Scriptures, we know that God still loves us and will be faithful to us, regardless of our feelings.”- Boice, James Montgomery

Job 19:7-12

“Behold, I cry out, ‘Violence!’ but I am not answered; I call for help, but there is no justice. He has walled up my way, so that I cannot pass, and he has set darkness upon my paths. He has stripped from me my glory and taken the crown from my head. He breaks me down on every side, and I am gone, and my hope has he pulled up like a tree. He has kindled his wrath against me and counts me as his adversary. His troops come on together; they have cast up their siege ramp against me and encamp around my tent.”

Job Feels Unheard

- Job cries out to God but he doesn't perceive an answer to his turmoil and frustration.
- Pray is an interesting phenomenon in that on the one hand it's primary purpose is to know God but on the other hand we are to make requests known to God because He cares for Us (1 Peter 5:7).
- How do we know that God hears our prayers?
- The simple answer is Faith!

- Another reason we know God hears our prayers is because He has promised to hear them!
- “Give ear to my prayer, O God, and hide not yourself from my plea for mercy! Attend to me, and answer me; Evening and morning and at noon I utter my complaint and moan, and he hears my voice.”-**Psalm 55:1-2,17**
- “And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.”-**1 John 5:14**
- If we pray the Word of God and ask according to the promises given to us in His Word we have the full assurance of faith He hears and will answer.

- "One of the mightiest men of prayer of the last generation was George Mueller of Bristol, England, who in the last sixty years of his life (he lived to be ninety-two or ninety-three) obtained the English equivalent of \$7,200,000.00 by prayer. But George Mueller never prayed for a thing just because he wanted it, or even just because he felt it was greatly needed for God's work. When it was laid upon George Mueller's heart to pray for anything, he would search the Scriptures to find if there was some promise that covered the case. Sometimes he would search the scriptures for days before he presented his petition to God. And then when he found the promise, with his open Bible before him, and his finger upon that promise, he would plead that promise, and so he received what he asked. He always prayed with an open Bible before him."-***R. A. Torrey on George Müller; The Power of Prayer***

- It is important in our prayer life not to be so concerned with the method of prayer that we miss the Person to Whom we are praying.
- There are many different methods of prayer which can become a subtle form of idolatry.
- “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words.”-

Matthew 6:7

- There are many different forms and methods of prayer and we need to discover what works most naturally for us.
- The most important aspect of prayer is intimacy with the Father and whatever form of prayer that is used to accomplish that purpose should be incorporated in our walk with Him.
- Our Father knows our needs before we ask for them (Matt. 6:8) and we are encouraged in Scripture to ask for these needs but always keep in mind that prayer is learning God's will and character and then aligning our life to God's order.
- "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." -**Matthew 6:10**

Job 19:13-20

“He has put my brothers far from me, and those who knew me are wholly estranged from me. My relatives have failed me, my close friends have forgotten me. The guests in my house and my maidservants count me as a stranger; I have become a foreigner in their eyes. I call to my servant, but he gives me no answer; I must plead with him with my mouth for mercy. My breath is strange to my wife, and I am stench to the children of my own mother. Even young children despise me; when I rise they talk against me. All my intimate friends abhor me, and those whom I loved have turned against me. My bones stick to my skin and to my flesh, and I have escaped by the skin of my teeth.”

Job Describes Peoples Reaction

- In theses verses Job describes for us people's reaction to his condition including his social contacts, his employees, his extended family and his immediate family.
 - His brothers have distanced themselves from him (vs. 13).
 - Those who knew Job are estranged from him (vs. 13).

- Family and close friends have failed and forgotten Job (vs. 14).
- He has become a foreigner in his own house and to his employees (vs. 15,16).
- His wife can't stand to be near him and he is a stench to his brothers and sisters (vs.17).
- Little children despise him and talk about him (vs.18).
- All those he loved have turned against him (vs. 19).
- Job is at a low point and he cannot rely on people so he turns to God and gets a huge revelation from God.

Job 19:21-22

“Have mercy on me, have mercy on me, O you my friends, for the hand of God has touched me! Why do you, like God, pursue me? Why are you not satisfied with my flesh?”

Job Cries For Mercy

- Job who has just described how people have been treating him asks them to have mercy upon him.
- Job had appealed to God for mercy and to answer his prayers and felt God had no answer so he decides to now ask for mercy from his social circle.
- Job was desperate and desperate people do desperate things to get relief from their situation.
- Job is at a low point and he cannot rely on people so he turns to God and gets a huge revelation from God.

Job 19:23-29

“Oh that my words were written! Oh that they were inscribed in a book! Oh that with an iron pen and lead they were engraved in the rock forever! For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me! If you say, ‘How we will pursue him!’ and, ‘The root of the matter is found in him,’ be afraid of the sword, for wrath brings the punishment of the sword, that you may know there is a judgment.”

Job's Proclamation of Faith

- Job cried out to God that his words would be written down in rock for future generations.
- I don't know if Job realized it or not but God answered his prayer.
- The words we are reading today is God's answer to Job's prayer.
- Job's words and life were undeniably written with an iron pen and lead, forever !

- Job's proclamation of faith is that his "Redeemer lives" and that one day He will stand upon the earth.
- The second part of Job's proclamation is that after he dies he will see God face to face.
- "The word translated Redeemer is *goel*, presenting one of the wonderful concepts of the Old Testament. "The 'Goel' stood for another to defend his cause, to avenge wrongs done to him, and so to acquit him of all charges laid against him."-Morgan, G. Campbell
- This is an amazing statement of faith by Job in the midst of crisis.

- Job has describe the treatment He received from his relatives and friends and now proclaims to his relatives that God is his “Goel” Job’s nearest living blood relative.
- “Job cannot understand why God is now acting so completely out of character with what he has always believed. He must somehow recover his friendship with God by means which supersede the theological calculus of the friends. He boldly claims God as his nearest relative.”-Andersen, Francis

Jesus Man's Kinsman

<u>Old Testament Qualifications</u>	<u>Jesus' Fulfillment</u>
A Blood Relationship	Galatians 4:4-7 Hebrews 2:16-17
The Necessary Resources	1 Corinthians 6:20 1 Peter 1:18-19
A Willingness to Buy	John 10:15-18 1 John 3:16
A Willingness to Marry	Romans 7:4 2 Corinthians 11:2 Revelation 19:7

God's Judgment

- Job warns his listeners that God will bring judgment and wrath resulting in punishment.
- Job is never afraid of God's judgment but in fact often looks forward to the Day when He will see God.
- Job knows that He can face tomorrow because his Redeemer lives and He can face God's judgment not because Job is good and pure but because his Redeemer (goel) will avenge and defend Job against any charges brought against him.

- Job was not afraid of judgment, because he was confident that the charges against him were false, and that his Redeemer would vindicate him. However, our Redeemer also clears us of our true guilt. “There is another most comforting thought – that our Vindicator will clear us from true charges as well as false ones. As for the false charges, what do they matter? It is the true ones that really concern us: can Christ clear us from them? Yes, that he can.”-Spurgeon, Charles

- “Having made this breakthrough of faith in God, Job seems less frantic hereafter in the book. He now saw his sufferings in the light of eternity, not just in his lifetime. When we can help people gain this perspective on their sufferings, we will find that they, too, find some relief.”-Constable, Thomas
- Our deepest struggles cause us cry out to God and then in the midst of this struggle comes a greater revelation of God.