

THE HOPE OF THE REDEEMED^{pt.2}

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“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

We returned to our subject on the Hope of the Redeemed or My Redeemer Liveth. What glorious words were spoken by Job and as we said last week, though Job is dead, yet he speaks powerfully to us this morning. This is what is said of Abel in Hebrews 11:4, *“By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: **and by it he being dead yet speaketh.**”* Therefore, Job being death yet speaks to us this morning. God fulfilled his desire, that is, that his words would be written in a book and they are written and sealed in God’s holy book, the Bible, Job declares to us again, *“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.”*

We set forth four things before last you week:

- I. THE LIVING REDEEMER.
- II. THE LATTER REIGN.
- III. THE LYING REMAINS.
- IV. THE LASTING REUNION.

The first thing we saw last week was: **I. THE LIVING REDEEMER.**

We were reminded that when God saves us He gives us a living hope. We are given a living hope, a lively hope, because all of us will one day die, but those of us who are saved; we have the hope of eternal life which gives great assurance of knowing that one day we shall see our Redeemer. 1 Thess.4:13, *“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have **no hope.**”* In Titus 1:2, Paul says, *“In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.”* In the same book in chapter 3:7, *“That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”* When God saves a sinner by His grace, He imparts to them a glorious living and lively hope of eternal life, which is why Job by with the eye of faith say assertively, *“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.”* This should again bring comfort to all who name the name of Christ, knowing that if we die we will enter into heaven’s everlasting glory, because

those who die or fall asleep in the arms of their Savior, say in faith, “*Blessed are the dead, which die in the Lord.*”

We must again understand; that all of us one day will pass out of this world into eternity. The question you need to ask yourself in your heart and in your mind, is, where will I spend eternity or where will I find myself at death? Rev.14:12 & 13, says, “*Here is the **patience of the saints**: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. (And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.*” Then we have those assuring words from 2 Cor.5:6 - 8, “*Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: 7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) 8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.*” Thus, we have a LIVING REDEEMER which gives us a LIVING HOPE! Therefore, Job could say with such confidence, with such certainty, with such conviction and with such assurance, “*For **I know** that my redeemer liveth...*” Not I hope so or I think so or I guess so or it may be, no, no, no Job affirms and claims confidently, “**I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVETH!**” IN MY FLESH SHALL I SEE GOD, I SHALL SEE FOR MYSELF, MINE EYES SHALL BEHOLD! We are reminded by David in Ps.89:48, “*What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave?*” Everyone of us in this auditorium will die one day, but when those of us who have been saved die and as our body sleeps in that long night of the grave, in those dark hours of death, our soul is in the presence of Christ, waiting to be united one day to that newly formed glorified body. Dear beloved I ask you again this morning, is Jesus Christ your Savior? Have your sins been dealt with? Do you have Christ? Do you have this hope? What will happen to you at death? Will you go to the glories of heaven with Christ and join Job with the myriads of Christians or will you be plunged into the horrible pit of hell? Will you not come to Christ even now in repentance and faith, bow the knee to King Jesus and confess Him with the tongue that He is Lord? This is your only hope at death, that you have a redeemer! Lay hold of Christ this morning, come to Him, look to Him, trust in Him alone for your salvation, be it but a feeble faith, if you have faith as a grain of a mustard seed, that faith entitles you to say and say now, “**I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVETH!** Can you say with Job, though He slays me, yet I will trust in HIM!

This brings us to our second point:

II. THE LATTER REIGN.

I do not have the time to deal with this phrase as I wish I could, “*...and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth...*” That is to say, that in the last day or at the end of all things, He will reign! Do not misunderstand me for He reigns even now, as He sits upon His throne, but in that last day, He will still be reigning, nothing can or will dethrone Him from being KING, not Satan, not sin, not some anti-christ, not Great Babylon that sitteth upon many waters, not the false prophet, not the beast the beast, nay, none, no one, not even death itself, nothing shall dethrone our GREAT REDEEMER and KING, He reigns now and in that last day, He will still be reigning, He will always reign. One day when He stands upon this earth, every eye shall see Him.

Job declares that His redeemer would one day appear on his behalf and of His suffering saints, standing or rising up as the deliverer, to be the avenger of blood for His people, Job knew that God would vindicate him at that last day. Job knew that the first Adam brought forth death and thus, brings man's body to the dust, but the Second Adam came to give life and will raise our bodies from the dust. In that last day we are told in Rev.1:7, "*Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.*" Turn to Revelation chapter 6 and at verse 12 to the end. Turn to Revelation 14 verse 1 and following to the end at verse 20. He is still reigning! Rev.17:14, "*These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.*" Yes in that last day, Jesus Christ will reign and stand, "*...and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth...*"

I am not in agreement with John Gill's eschatology but, I agree with what he says here, "*he shall stand over the earth in the latter day*" in the last times of all, in the close of time, at the end of the world, at his appearing and kingdom, when he shall come to judge the quick and dead; those that will be alive, and those that will be raised from the dead, who will meet him in the air over the earth, and shall be for ever with him; and even then "*he shall stand upon the earth*"...when he shall come, and all the saints with him...in the resurrection morn, and shall exercise his authority over it, and command the earth and sea to give up their dead; and when at his all commanding voice the dead shall come out of their graves, as Lazarus came out of his, he shall stand then upon the dust of the earth, and tread upon it as a triumphant Conqueror, having subdued all his enemies, and now the last enemy, death, is destroyed by the resurrection of the dead: what a glorious and enlarged view had Job of the blessed Redeemer!" Thus, by faith Job knew that his REDEEMER would stand at the latter day upon the earth! Oh, my dear ones, if you are outside Christ this morning, May God be pleased to open your eyes and show you your sins so that you would flee to Christ for salvation! If you die without Christ you will not behold God, you will behold immense darkness in that awful pit of hell with burning fires that shall never go out. What hope do you have? Job had a hope, how about you? Where will you be on that day? Where will you be when you die? Does this even concern you? You will be concerned if you die without Christ, why wait; call on Him even now to save your soul! Call upon the only redeemer of sinners! Look to Christ this morning!

Thirdly and quickly: **III. THE LYING REMAINS.**

"...And though after my skin worms destroy this body yet in my flesh shall I see God." Job knew that when he would die his body would go to the grave and that the worms would eat and destroy his body, but in faith, yet, he believed his flesh would one day see God. The worms would consume his body in the grave, his skin would be completely consumed and nothing left but the bones, which would also decay and become dust. But as he expresses complete consumption of his body because of death, after it has been in the grave year after year, decade after decade, score after score, century after

century, millennium after millennium, nonetheless, regardless of this length of time, in faith he believed that one day his body would be resurrected from the dead. Now there are some that believe that Job is just speaking of the cure of his diseased skin and flesh and a vindication from his three friends and of his health. I believe that Job is speaking of a future time when his worm-eaten body which was left behind, in that future triumphal hope of all the saints of God in the glorious resurrection, for he knew that flesh and blood could not inherit the kingdom of God, but a glorified body would one day robe his soul again. Job believed this for in another passage he says, *“If a man die, shall he live again? All the days of my appointed time will I wait, **till my change come**.”* Job 14:14. All because, he says with great faith, I Know that MY Redeemer Liveth! Though after my skin worms destroy this body “YET” in my flesh I shall see God. This tiny three letter word “**YET**” displays mightily his faith and conviction. There is something about the word “**YET**,” it can be used negatively, but also positively. Job uses it here positively, in glorious faith, although, the worms shall eat my flesh, “**YET**,” or nevertheless, in spite of this, **YET**, **YET** in faith, in my flesh I shall see God.

- Reminds me of King David when on his death bed, as he gets ready to die, he utters his last words. He knew that his house had been in shambles, yet, nonetheless, yet, in spite of this, “**YET**,” by the eye of faith David utters in great faith: *“Although my house be not so with God; **yet** he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure: for this is all my salvation, and all my desire, although he make it not to grow.”* 2 Sam. 23:5.
- Habakkuk going through some hard times, difficult times, trying times, and in the midst of this, like Job and David declares in glorious faith, **YET**, that is, nonetheless, in spite of all this, he utters in great faith, **YET!** *“Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls. **Yet** I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places.”* Hab.3:17-19.
- David again says, *“I have been young, and now am old; **yet** have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.”* Ps 37:25.
- Even Jonah in the belly of whale could proclaim such great and unambiguous faith, Jonah 2: 3-4, *“For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me. Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; **yet I will look** again toward thy holy temple.”* Again in verses 6 & 7, *“I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever: **yet hast thou** brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God. When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.”*

- This is one of verses God used when He called me to the ministry: Galatians 1:10, *"For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for **if I yet** pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ."*
- Colossians 1:21, *"And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, **yet now** hath he reconciled."*
- Hebrews 12:26 & 27, *"Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, **Yet once more** I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. 27 And this word, **Yet once more**, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain."*
- 1 Peter 1:8, *"Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, **yet believing**, ye rejoyce with joy unspeakable and full of glory."*
- One more from Job, *"Though he slay me, **yet** will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him."* Job 13:15.

Again this word "**YET**," is the language of faith! Job, therefore knowing this says that one day he will die and the worms shall eat his body and flesh, but declares boldly, **"...yet in my flesh shall I see God."**

Consider the words of Spurgeon on this particular text, it is a lengthy quote, but nonetheless, pertinent, *"The body is borne upon the bier and consigned to the silent earth; it is surrounded by the earthworks of death. Death has a host of troops. If the locusts and the caterpillars be God's army, the worms are the army of death. These hungry warriors begin to attack the city of man. They commence with the outworks; they storm the munition, and overturn the walls. The skin, the city wall of manhood, is utterly broken down, and the towers of its glory covered with confusion. How speedily the cruel invaders deface all beauty. The face gathers blackness; the countenance is defiled with corruption. Those cheeks once fair with youth, and ruddy with health, have fallen in, even as a bowing wall and a tottering fence; those eyes, the windows of the mind whence joy and sorrow looked forth by turns, are now filled up with the dust of death; those lips, the doors of the soul, the gates of Mansoul, are carried away, and the bars thereof are broken. Alas, ye windows of agates and gates of carbuncle, where are ye now? How shall I mourn for thee, O thou captive city, for the mighty men have utterly spoiled thee! Thy neck, once like a tower of ivory, has become as a fallen column; thy nose, so lately comparable to "the tower of Lebanon, which looketh toward Damascus," is as a ruined hovel; and thy head, which towered like Carmel, lies low as the clods of the valley. Where is beauty now? The most lovely cannot be known from the most deformed. The vessel so daintily wrought upon the potter's wheel, is cast away upon the dunghill with the vilest potsherds. Cruel have ye been, ye warriors of death, for though ye wield no axes and bear no hammers, yet have ye broken down the carved work; and though ye speak not with tongues, yet have ye said in your hearts, "We have swallowed her up, certainly this is the day that we have looked for; we have found, we have seen it." The skin is gone. The troops have entered into the town of Mansoul. And now they pursue their work of devastation; the pitiless marauders fall upon the body itself. There are those noble aqueducts, the veins through which the streams of life were wont to flow, these, instead of being rivers of life, have become blocked up with the soil and wastes of death, and now they must be pulled*

to pieces; not a single relic of them shall be spared. Mark the muscles and sinews, like great highways that penetrating the metropolis, carry the strength and wealth of manhood along—their curious pavement must be pulled up, and they that do traffic thereon must be consumed; each tunnelled bone, and curious arch, and knotted bond must be snapped and broken. Fair fabrics, glorious storehouses, costly engines, wonderful machines—all, all must be pulled down, and not one stone left upon another. Those nerves, which like telegraphic wires connected all parts of the city together, to carry thought and feeling and intelligence—these are cut. No matter how artistic the work might be,—and certainly we are fearfully and wonderfully made, and the anatomist stands still and marvels to see the skill which the eternal God has manifested in the formation of the body—but these ruthless worms pull everything to pieces, till like a city sacked and spoiled that has been given up for days to pillage and to flame, everything lies in a heap of ruin—ashes to ashes, dust to dust. It is gone, it is all gone!” **Spurgeon had a vivid imagination, he continues:** “The skin, the body, the vitals, all, all has departed. There is nought left. In a few years ye shall turn up the sod and say, “Here slept so-and-so, and where is he now?”, and ye may search and hunt and dig, but ye shall find no relic...earth has devoured her own off spring. It is ordained that somehow or other it must be all separated—“dust to dust, ashes to ashes.” It is part of the decree that it should all perish. The worms or some other agents of destruction must destroy this body. Do not seek to avoid what God has purposed; do not look upon it as a gloomy thing.. Regard it as a necessity; nay more, view it as the platform of a miracle, the lofty stage of resurrection, since Jesus shall surely raise again from the dead the particles of this body, however divided from one another. We have heard of miracles, but what a miracle is the resurrection! All the miracles of Scripture, yea even those wrought by Christ, are small compared with this. The philosopher says, “How is it possible that God shall hunt out every particle of the human frame?” He can do it: he has but to speak the word, and every single atom, though it may have traveled thousands of leagues, though it may have been blown as dust across the desert, and anon have fallen upon the bosom of the sea, and then have descended into the depths thereof to be cast up on a desolate shore, sucked up by plants, fed on again by beasts, or passed into the fabric of another man,—I say that individual atom shall find its fellows, and the whole company of particles at the trump of the archangel shall travel to their appointed place, and the body, the very body which was laid in the ground, shall rise again.” Job knew by faith that after his body had gone to the grave, yet in his flesh he would see His REDEEMER! Job believed that he would in the latter day appear again, be raised from the dead to behold His glory for all eternity. John Gill says, “...yet in my flesh or out of my flesh, out of my fleshly eyes; from thence and with those shall I behold God manifest in the flesh, my incarnate God; and if Job was one of those saints that rose when Christ did, as some say, he saw him in the flesh and with his fleshly eyes.” No matter where we die or no matter what happens to the body when we die, whether it will be in the ground, in the sea, decapitated in an accident, being in a car wreck, burned in a fire, blown in pieced by an explosion, devoured by some animal, cremated, regardless what happens to the body at death, it shall all be brought together again and it shall rise again one day! No matter where the lying remains are, they will be resurrected on that glorious day. Every speck of dust shall return to its original owner when the body is resurrected! This totally blows my mind. How, can it be that every atom, every cell, every piece or part that makes up the body shall be return to it rightful owner. As Spurgeon said, talk about miracle of miracles, WOW! This is our hope, regardless of the cause of our death, **YET**, we have this hope, “...And though after my skin worms destroy this body **yet in my flesh shall I see God.**”

This brings us to our last point:

IV. THE LASTING REUNION.

“Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.” Job by faith believed that his redeemer was a LIVING REDEEMER and that there would be a LATTER REIGN and that his LYING REMAINS would one day be part of the LASTING REUNION, that is, with his own eyes he would BEHOLD HIS REDEEMER. He says, with my own eyes I shall see Him for myself. What joy and satisfaction waited for him! These very selfsame eyes of mine I will behold my glorious LORD, as I have seen Him with spiritual eyes or the eye of faith, I will see Him with my own eyes, MY BLESSED Living REDEEMER! Job says, mine eyes shall behold, I believe Job means HIM, our Redeemer Jesus Christ. Job is saying my eyes, not someone else’s, but with my own eyes I shall behold! As though Job is saying, I’m not interested in some saints who will be there, I’m not interested in beholding some mansion, not some pearly gates, not the angels, not Abraham, not Enoch, not Abel, not Eve, not Adam, though these and other saints be there, I shall see for myself, my eyes shall behold HIM, My REDEEMER! Whom mine eyes shall behold and not another, oh no; for myself and not through another, shall I see God. They will not bring some report as they did the Queen of Sheba, no, I shall see Him and not another, I shall see the redeemer for myself, with mine own eyes. Job will be able to say as the woman of Samaria, now I believe, not because of thy word, but I have seen Him for myself!

Those who we know that have gone on before us are at this present moment saying, my eyes behold my redeemer and it is better than anyone has told me. I think of dear Gordon Bayliss, Gwen Belsito, Garland Johnson, Frank Boystund, Melissa Robles, Wilbert Miller, Vivian Risse and others that have left us to be with the Lord. If they could come back, which they will not, nor would want to, but if they could, their words would be, **“...for I know that my redeemer liveth, whom I see with mine own eyes and not another.”** Do you have this hope? Can you say with Job, *“Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.”* As there is not another to see God for you, there is not another who can believe for you, you must yourself believe and trust the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior. Do you even have an interest in Christ, or is your interest merely religious? You know, don’t get too involved, Sunday morning church is good enough for me, I don’t feel the need to be in Church when the doors open, no need to speak to others of Christ, no need to read the Bible, no need to pray, my interest is merely religious. Well, I pray that God would be pleased to open your eyes and show you your sins so that you would flee to Christ for salvation! If you die without Christ you will not behold God, but you will behold immense darkness in that awful pit of hell with burning fires that shall never go out. What hope do you have? Job had a hope, how about you? Is your hope like the spiders web? Consider the words of Job 8:13 & 14, *“So are the paths of all that forget God; and the hypocrite’s hope shall perish: 14 Whose hope shall be cut off, and whose trust shall be a spider’s web.”*

Job again says after my skin and this body is destroyed by worms, yet in my flesh shall I see God; whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold and not another, he continues, *“...though my reins be consumed within me.”* The word “though” is in italics, put in by translators, thus it reads, “mine eyes shall behold and not another, my reins be

consumed within me. The word “reins” speaks of the heart, that is, the deep seat of the soul, this speaks of his affections and signifies his most earnest and burning desire that he had, it ate up his spirits as Gill says. My reins are consumed in me, or if you wish, in my bosom. That happiness of future lasting reunion with his God consumed his heart. He knew that when he died he would be with his God forever and ever and that there was nothing to keep him from fulfilling this blessed hope.

By some means God had shown him something of this blessed hope of the resurrection and of his Christ, that Christ would not just be the destroyer of death, but also be the giver of LIFE, yea LIFE ITSELF and that He gives life and that He is his living redeemer. Job knew something of this truth, he knew he could trust Him, Job knew that this was the only thing that was permanent, the only thing you can count on forever because everything else will crumble, everything else will end, everything else will fade away, everything else will burn away, because every material thing in this world shall perish, but at the latter day HE (Jesus Christ) will stand.

I have the same hope as Job and one day I will be there with him, yes, **I shall be there**, how about you? I shall behold Him with my own eyes! How about you? In that day everyone shall see Him, some in joy and happiness others in fear and trembling as we read again in Revelation, “*And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?*” Rev.6:15-18. Rev. 1:7, “*Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.*”

We know where Job is? We know where those who die in Christ are? We know where the Apostle Paul is, King David, where Moses is, Abraham, Rahab the harlot is, where Spurgeon is, where George Whitefield, Jonathan Edwards we know where Gordon Bayliss is, We know where Gwen Belsito is, where Wilbert Miller is and where Vivian Risse who just passed away is? But, what about you? Where will you wind up at death? Can you say with Job, I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVETH and YET IN MY FLESH SHALL I SEE GOD!

Job in glorious faith says, “*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.

I admonish you, I plead with you, come to Christ this evening don't put it off. You never know when you will hear your last sermon! My God speak to your heart, may God be pleased to save you. Those of you who know the Lord be reminded of the blessed hope we have in our LIVING REDEEMER!