

## Job 19:24-27 “Our Redeemer Lives!”

**For the Children:** When your friends hurt you, you probably get a bit angry with them. Many people get angry with God when they feel that He has made hurtful things happen in their lives. That is how Job was tempted to feel. Job’s friends said that Job was being punished by God – that he must have done something bad. Job wanted to prove he was innocent. But he knew that he couldn’t deny he was a sinner. He knew he needed the Lord Jesus to declare him innocent and to rescue and restore him. He expected that he would then, eventually, have his body restored in heaven and see the Lord. **Questions:** How do you try to defend yourself when you have been found out for wrongdoing? Why do we need The Lord Jesus to defend us? How do we know that our Redeemer lives?

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### Introduction:

#### First Point: Job’s Self-Defense

- 1) Job’s Struggle: Job has a struggle against unhelpful friends, who argue that his suffering is due to his sin. Job was “blameless” = not chargeable with respect to any serious sin; but this does not mean he was without sin. His struggle is not only against the false accusations of his friends, but also against the Lord: he sees God as his persecutor, for no just cause (19:1-6, 22).
- 2) The Problem of Self-Defense: Job’s basic defense is that he is innocent of any grievous sinning that would justify the sending of such affliction. In vss. 23-24, he expresses the wish that his testimony regarding himself could be written down as a permanent record. That is how sure he is of his own innocence. However, we know from 42:6 that Job was a sinner – there he repents in dust and ashes. As a sinner, he cannot vindicate himself completely. There are many other forms of self-defense into which sinners fall. The more we seek to defend ourselves, the harder it will be to accept the afflictions that the Lord sends in His Providence. When we acknowledge our sins, we accept that, in ourselves, we deserve nothing but misery in this life and hell in the next.

#### Second Point: Job’s Desire for a Better Defender

- 1) Job’s Better Insight: Though Job slips back into self-defense through much of the Book, he ends with a better understanding. Here in the middle of the Book we are also reminded of the need for a better Defender – the Lord Himself. In 14:12-14, Job is waiting for God to change his situation; in 17:3 he asks the Lord to be his Guarantor; and here, in 19:25-27, Job rises above his own poor self-defense – “As for me” contrasts his circumstances, his friends’ false accusations and his protestation of innocence – and looks instead to His Redeemer for vindication.
- 2) The Kinsman-Redeemer: The word for “redeemer” here refers to someone who rescues a relative from difficulty or danger. God, by grace, is the Father who stands up for His people, to rescue, restore and vindicate them. He does so by sending His Son as the Kinsman (Brother) who rescues us from Satan sin, death – and ultimately even the misery that sin brings into the world.
- 3) The Certain Hope of Resurrection: Job also looks ahead to the time, after his “skin”/body has been destroyed, when God the Judge will take His stand and declare His people innocent. Job expects to see this with his own eyes, in the flesh i.e., with a restored body. This is the certain hope of all who look to Christ to vindicate them, instead of trying to vindicate themselves. For us, as for Job, this great day is a matter of intense longing (“fainting”). This is the certainty of vindication and resurrection of which the Lord’s Supper is both sign and seal.

### Conclusion:

