

Job 19:25-27
Easter
March, 2024
Good Shepherd

As Jesus was dying on the cross in the darkness of that bleak Friday afternoon, the angel armies of heaven and hell stood watching. The demons were happy as they watched Jesus suffer hell's punishment. The angels of heaven waited, hoping to hear Jesus cry for help. But Jesus, was obedient to His Father's will, and endured the pain until His work was finished!

Satan and the demons probably cheered loudly when Jesus died. They thought they had won! But their joy was short-lived. In heaven, the plan for Jesus' resurrection was soon put into place. What had been foretold in the Old Testament was about to be fulfilled!

Today we hear the great Easter proclamation of an Old Testament believer: **I know that my Redeemer lives!**

You know the Biblical account of Job. In a short period of time, Job lost everything: his wealth, his children, his health and the respect of his wife. His body was near death and all Job could see was his grave opening.

Job not only saw his grave opening at the cemetery, he also saw his grave opening on the last day when Jesus will return. Job said, After my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God. Job was thinking of death, but he knew his future.

Job saw himself coming out of the grave. He knew that

it would be earth to earth, ashes to ashes, and dust to dust for him, but that wasn't all. Job saw two doors in his grave: one marked entrance, the other marked exit. Job knew that one day he would use the entrance door to the grave but he also knew that he would use the exit door on the last day, when his grave would open to give back his body, to live, glorified, forever.

It isn't easy to watch someone die. You can understand how the followers of Jesus felt when their Friend and Teacher was brutally crucified. We can understand why the disciples of Jesus were hiding; they didn't want to die on a cross like Jesus did!

The news the women brought back about the empty tomb Sunday morning was unbelievable. Jesus - alive? How could that be? When Mary Magdalene came back saying, I have seen the Lord, it seemed too good to be true!

But it was true! Jesus was alive! He had risen from the dead! And, because Jesus is alive, we will also live! The empty tomb is now a place of life!

Everyone knew that Jesus of Nazareth had died. The Jews knew it. The Romans knew it. Those gathered around the cross knew it. The body of Jesus had been placed into a tomb and a stone had been rolled in front of the entrance.

But on Sunday morning an angel rolled the stone away to show that the tomb was empty. Jesus was alive! The Father had placed the sins of the world upon His Son

and then punished Jesus with hell's punishment for what we had done! The Son of God died – for us!

Job believed that his Redeemer lived. With the eyes of a prophet, Job saw the dawning of the first Easter. He saw Jesus rising from the dead and walking out of His grave. The Savior was victorious over sin, death, and hell. Job placed his hope for a future life in a living Savior just as we do. That's why Job could say, I know that my Redeemer lives!

On Friday Jesus was executed as the world's Worst Criminal. Jesus suffered horribly. He suffered our punishment in hell! He was sacrificed for the sins of the world.

If Jesus had not suffered for us; if He had not paid for all sin, He would not have been raised from the dead and we would have no Savior. We would have no hope of forgiveness. We would have no hope for the future. But God's Word tells us that Jesus lives. I believe it!

Out West, in New Mexico, a rattlesnake struck a sheep in the face. The sheep's face became swollen. It hurt. But the sheep continued to eat and drink. The shepherd watched that sheep; but he wasn't too concerned. You see, the antidote for a rattlesnake bite is usually made from sheep's blood. In a few days the sheep was fine. The sheep's blood destroyed the snake's venom.

Friend's. Satan will try to make us doubt that Jesus is our living Savior. Don't worry about what Satan says; remember the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, makes

us clean from every sin.

You and I share in the victory of Jesus. Jesus suffered for you and me. Jesus died in my place and your place. Jesus walked out of the tomb for you and for me. Dead, buried, and risen with Jesus in Baptism, we share in His awesome victory! We know that our Redeemer lives!

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