

Introduction: In this life the enemy of our souls, the corrupt world systems, and the as yet un-sanctified portions of our souls can team up to make us depressed, anxious and angry. So, we must fix our eyes on Jesus Christ, the Savior-King (Hebrews 12:1-3), and humbly bow before Him in dependent, child-like faith. *** As He left the Upper Room to pray in Gethsemane, Jesus said His disciples are always facing tribulation, but they may have peace IN Him because He has overcome the world (Matthew 26:26-29; John 16:33). Every disciple of Jesus should memorize this verse. And, in context, I will repeat what I said twenty years ago: John gave us five ‘golden’ chapters of Jesus with the ‘twelve’ at the Passover Seder before He was arrested to be crucified. Find a week to read these five chapters: start by reading John 13 on Monday, and finish by reading John 17 on Friday. I have gotten positive feedback on this spiritual discipline. *** There are four great truths in today’s Bible passages. Even the most God-approved disciples will experience loss and pain to the point of despair: we must offer sympathy to such brothers and sisters because it will happen to us someday. In moments of great despair, we must still have hope in the faithful God that He will graciously give us the faith we need. Even in the lowest of lows, we must remember our Redeemer is alive and we will see Him face-to-face someday. We need to always worship Jesus our Kinsman-Redeemer because by His death and resurrection for us, we can grow into His righteousness. *** Let’s now examine these truths in greater depth so they will strengthen and guide us every day.

I. In desperation Job contrasts trees and people while contemplating death; then, he requests relief from wrath and hopes Yahweh will desire him again. (Job 14:7-15)

A. In his depression, Job poetically contrasts what he has observed of trees and people, and questions what happens at death. (Verses 7-12)

1. [to Zophar] Because, exists for a tree, hope / if it will be cut down, again it will grow up new / and its shoots will not cease // If grow old in the earth its root / and in the ground will die its stump // from the scent of water, it will bud / and make boughs like a plant. (Verses 7-9)

Hope for tree: Most people know if the stump of a cut down tree is left to itself, it will soon bring forth skinny new growth that will produce leaf bearing branches over time. Job calls this the ‘hope’ of trees.

2. And mighty men will die and be prostrate / and breathes his last, *adam*, and where (is) he? // waters will evaporate from the sea / and a river will waste away, dried up // a man was laid down and will not rise / until the heavens are no more / they will not awaken from their sleep. (Verses 10-12)

Men die and dry up: Using three synonyms for people, a depressed Job questions if there is anything for people after they die. He compares death to a brook overflowing in the spring, but dried up in the summer.

Application: We will all meet people who have become depressed. We must have sympathy for the pain they are experiencing over the losses in their lives.

B. Job requests relief from Yahweh’s wrath and hangs on to hope that Yahweh will again desire friendship with him. (Verses 13-15)

1. Who will set (so that) in Sheol Thou will hide me / Thou will conceal me until the turning back of Thy wrath / Thou will make a limit and Thou will remember me?! (Verse 13)

Hide me from wrath: Job is pleading to be hidden from God’s wrath, even in the shadowy underworld of Sheol-hell!

Remember me: He is begging God to put a limit on the wrath of His punishment of him and to be remembered in mercy and love.

2. If a mighty man will die will he live again? / all the days of my (warfare) service I will wait in hope / until my change (to relief) comes. (Verse 14)

Wait in hope for change: When he is most questioning life after death, Job holds on to a slim thread of faith that his situation will end to his good.

3. Thou will call and I, yes I will answer Thee / for the work of Thy hands, Thou will yearn (desire). (Verse 15)

Faith in future: Job closes on a high note of confidence that his Creator will call him because He will again desire a relationship with the man He created.

Application: Let us always have faith that God desires a relationship with everyone created in His image.

II. Job declares faith in a personal Redeemer he will see face-to-face; and, David foresees people from the whole earth worshipping Yahweh as King because of what He has done. (Job 19:23-27; Psalm 22:27-31)

A. Job requests that his words be preserved and declares faith in a personal Redeemer whom he will see face-to-face. (Job 19:23-27)

1. [to Bildad] Who will set (so that) will be written my words / Who will set (so that) in a book they will be inscribed? (Verses 23-24)

Words were preserved: It is likely Job was a contemporary of Abraham. It turns out the Holy Spirit arranged for Job’s words and story to be inscribed in a book so that hundreds of millions of people have read them, and benefitted from them, for four millennia!

2. And I, I have certainly known my Kinsman-Redeemer (is) alive / and at the last time, upon the dust He will arise. (Verse 25)

Living Redeemer: This is one of the strongest statements of faith and the ‘good news’ of Jesus Christ in the whole Bible. Job is saying he has certain knowledge that a human Redeemer, of him personally, is alive until the end of the time of the earth, and He will rise up from dust (of death). And, because Job himself will see his Redeemer at the end of time, he will live after he dies!

There is hope of life after death because the Redeemer lives

3. And after my skin they have stricken off – this (body) / in my flesh I will see God // whom I, yes I will see / and my eyes, they have seen, and not a stranger / they are consumed, my inner emotions, within my chest. (*Verses 26-27*)
Job will see God: Even after his skin has fallen off and he is a skeleton, long before Ezekiel (37:1-14), Job knows he will again be clothed in flesh to see God. This is the last act his human Redeemer will do for him, and all his inner emotions are stirred in excited praise.

There is hope of life after death because the Redeemer lives

Application: We must all hope and pray for the faith necessary to know we will be resurrected to life or reproach (Daniel 12:1-3; Isaiah 25:7-8); and, if we have Job's faith, even when all has been taken away and we are in great despair, we will live after we die because of what Jesus did!

- B. David sees a day when all people may repent to worship Yahweh as their righteous King because of what He has done. (*Psalm 22:27-31*)

1. They will remember and they will turn to Yahweh / and they will worship (on their knees) before Thee, all the families of the nations. (*Verse 27*)

Universal repentance to worship: David was given this amazing statement about the future Messiah, Jesus – the Son of the Covenant God, to whom families from all the nations will repent (turn from their ways to Him) and fall to their knees to worship Him!

2. Because, to Yahweh, kingship / He (is) ruling in the nations. (*Verse 28*)

Yahweh, King of all the earth: This is the universal kingship of the Three-in-One Covenant God after Jesus returns and the new heavens and earth are established (Revelation 11:15; 21:1-5; 22:1-5).

3. They have eaten and then bowed down in worship, all the fat ones (rich) of the earth / before Him they will bow, those going down to the dust / and his soul, he has not kept alive. (*Verse 29*)

Rich and dead: All will bow before the crucified and risen Messiah-Savior-Redeemer: those who are fat from feasting and those going down to the dust in death.

4. Descendants will serve Him / it will be told of Adonai to the (next) generation. (*Verse 30*)

Generation to generation: From generation to generation there will be universal witness of those who serve the Lord who gives the hope of life after death – namely, Jesus Christ, the Kinsman-Redeemer.

There is hope of life after death because the Redeemer lives

5. They will come and they will declare His righteousness / to a people being born that He has done it. (*Verse 31*)

Declare God's righteousness: God is the only righteous One, and those who are His people through the faith of Jesus will declare His righteousness.

He has done it: Jesus' fourth word from the Cross was 'My God, my God, why have Thou forsaken me?' (Matthew 27:46). This is the first line of this Psalm (22). In first century Judaism, when a rabbi quoted the first line of a Psalm, he meant for his students to apply the whole Psalm to what was happening. The last verse would indicate that with His crucifixion Jesus had accomplished His mission to Redeem people from sin. This is the meaning of His seventh and last Word from the Cross (John 19:30).

Application: Putting it all together, let us be committed to worship Jesus, the promised Kinsman-Redeemer, who did all that was necessary to enable all people to become the children of God (John 1:12-16).

And it is our incentive for obeying the Great Commission of making disciples of Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20).

All the earth will bow down to Yahweh for what He has done

Conclusion: In desperation Job contrasts trees and people while contemplating death. He requests relief from wrath and hopes Yahweh will desire him again. Job declares faith in a personal Redeemer he will see face-to-face. David foresees people from the whole earth worshipping Yahweh as King because of what He has done.

There is hope of life after death because the Redeemer lives