

## Job: "My Redeemer Lives!"

### Job 19

Group <sup>1</sup>	C	V	Description
Job Feels Insulted	19	1-6	Job believes he has been insulted 10 times
Everything Is Against Him		7-12	Job's cries for relief to God seem to go unanswered
		13-22	Job believes that he has become a stranger and alien to his family and friends Job asks: “Why do you persecute me as God does?”
Job Says, “My Redeemer Lives”		23-29	Job's faith in God's faithfulness has not failed <a href="#">Job 19:25 NASB</a> "As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, And at the last He will take His stand on the earth.

Job responds again to his friends and pleads with them to stop their reasoning with him. Job states that he believes that he has been insulted ten times and they are elevating themselves against him. Job freely acknowledges that any errors that he truly made reside solely with him but he believes that it is God who has caused this and ensnared him.

Job is telling his friends is that their responses have only resulted in crushing and wounding him rather than helping him. Consider this comment from Strauss<sup>2</sup>.

His friends have grievously wounded (tormented) Job by their insinuations. "Vex" is not strong enough for the Hebrew word; the same verb is used in [Isa 51:23](#) of Israel's tormentors. In [Lam 1:5](#); [Lam 1:12](#), the same word is used to describe the suffering which God inflicted on Israel. The verb (*dk'*) translated as "break me in pieces" is used of the penitent in [Isa 57:15](#) and [Psa 1:17](#). It means "crush" and is here employed to describe the effects of the charges from Job's friends. "I am crushed" by your insinuations, not led to repentance.

Verse 4 is a difficult one to understand. Job is not admitting to some secret sin, which he has maintained throughout his discussion with his friends. Rather he is saying, hypothetically, that even if he had sinned, the sin is his concern not his friends. The NLT helps with its translation.

[Job 19:4 NLT](#) Even if I have sinned, that is my concern, not yours.

Job's friends might believe that they are helping their friend. We may at times feel like we need to respond to our friends in a similar manner when they appear to be going the wrong direction. There is precedent for helping someone, especially a fellow Christian, who is obviously involved in sinful actions resulting in repentance and forgiveness. Note these verses from James and Peter.

[James 5:20 NASB](#) let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

[1 Peter 4:8 NASB](#) Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

Yet in all this, as Jesus warns, we are not to pass judgment (act in a condemning manner) on others but are to use good judgment (make wise decisions).

[Matthew 7:1-6 NASB](#) "Do not judge so that you will not be judged. [2](#) "For in the way

<sup>1</sup> (NASB) "Group" column from the headings in the NASB text.

<sup>2</sup> (Strauss) on Job 19:2.

## Job: "My Redeemer Lives!"

you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. 3 "Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 4 "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye? 5 "You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye. 6 "Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

In verses 7-12 Job describes how he feels that God has stripped him of whatever dignity he may have had and how His army has encamped around him. In verses 13-22 describe the thoroughness, in Job's eyes, with which God has left him with nothing and no one to support. But in verses 23-29, Job shares the hope that still resides within him about God's faithfulness, even in death and the afterlife.

Job 19:23-26 NASB "Oh that my words were written! Oh that they were inscribed in a book! 24 "That with an iron stylus and lead They were engraved in the rock forever! 25 "As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, And at the last He will take His stand on the earth. 26 "Even after my skin is destroyed, Yet from my flesh I shall see God;

Job might not understand why these things are allowed to happen and also knows that God could stop them at any time, although his prayers seem to go unanswered. He also knows that his well meaning friends might believe that their words are helping but offer little comfort. In the end though, Job will continue to trust in God's faithfulness. We too, when faced with difficult situations, might believe that God has abandoned or left us, yet we can trust that He will be our redeemer too.

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### *Regarding the use of the number 10 in verse 2*

Many commentators<sup>3</sup> believe that Job uses a Hebrew idiom to indicate the many times his friends have given their counsel when he says that they had insulted him ten times. As you can see from the search for the names of Job's friends, prior to this chapter they have collectively spoken 5 times.

Job 2:11 NASB Now when Job's three friends heard of all this adversity that had come upon him, they came each one from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite; and they made an appointment together to come to sympathize with him and comfort him.

Job 4:1 NASB Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered,

Job 8:1 NASB Then Bildad the Shuhite answered,

Job 11:1 NASB Then Zophar the Naamathite answered,

Job 15:1 NASB Then Eliphaz the Temanite responded,

Job 18:1 NASB Then Bildad the Shuhite responded,

Job 20:1 NASB Then Zophar the Naamathite answered,

Job 22:1 NASB Then Eliphaz the Temanite responded,

Job 25:1 NASB Then Bildad the Shuhite answered,

Job 32:2 NASB But the anger of Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram burned; against Job his anger burned because he justified himself before God.

Job 32:4 NASB Now Elihu had waited to speak to Job because they were years older

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3 (Barnes; Walvoord and Zuck; Clarke; Henry; Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown; Torrey) most cite one or more of the following verses as examples: Gen 31:7; Lev 26:26; Num 14:22; Neh 4:12; Dan 1:20

## Job: "My Redeemer Lives!"

than he.

**Job 32:5 NASB** And when Elihu saw that there was no answer in the mouth of the three men his anger burned.

**Job 32:6 NASB** So Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite spoke out and said, "I am young in years and you are old; Therefore I was shy and afraid to tell you what I think.

**Job 34:1 NASB** Then Elihu continued and said,

**Job 35:1 NASB** Then Elihu continued and said,

**Job 36:1 NASB** Then Elihu continued and said,

**Job 42:7 NASB** It came about after the LORD had spoken these words to Job, that the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "My wrath is kindled against you and against your two friends, because you have not spoken of Me what is right as My servant Job has.

**Job 42:9 NASB** So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite *and* Zophar the Naamathite went and did as the LORD told them; and the LORD accepted Job.

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**Key Words:** Old Testament, Wisdom, Job, Judgment, Abandonment, Salvation

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