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Journeying With Job. Part 10

This I Know

Text: Job 19:23-27

Note the polarity in the text. The *dying* Job is declaring a *living* Redeemer. The fleeting words of this one (23-24) are compared to the Redeemer who shall stand (endure) at the end.

In Hebrew thought the *redeemer* (goel; ga’al) is the one who rescues a widow from poverty or a people from bondage. The redeemer ensures continuity of a family line, a heritage.

Excerpt from Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words:

*“****The Book of Ruth*** *is a beautiful account of the kinsman-redeemer. His responsibility is summed up in Ruth 4:5: “What day thou buyest the field of the hand of Naomi, thou must buy it also of Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance.” Thus, the kinsman-redeemer was responsible for preserving the integrity, life, property, and family name of his close relative or for executing justice upon his murderer.*

*The greater usage of this word group is of God who promised: “… I am the Lord … I will redeem you with a stretched-out arm and with great judgments” (Exod. 6:6; cf. Ps. 77:15). Israel confessed: “Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou hast redeemed …” (Exod. 15:13). “And they remembered that God was their rock, and the high God their redeemer” (Ps. 78:35).*

***The Book of Isaiah*** *evidences the word “Redeemer” used of God 13 times, all in chapters 41-63, and ga‘al is used 9 times of God, first in 43:1: “Fear not; for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou “art mine.” Ga‘al is used of deliverance from Egypt (51:10; 63:9) and from captivity in Babylon (48:20; 52:3, 9; 62:12). Israel’s “Redeemer” is “the Holy One of Israel” (41:14), “the creator of Israel, your King” (43:14-15), “the Lord of hosts” (44:6), and “the mighty One of Jacob” (49:26). Those who share His salvation are “the redeemed” (35:9).”*

**Closing**

There are some things I don’t know.

* I don't know why promising, bright, ambitious teens die in car crashes, weeks before their high school graduations.
* I don't know why people who never smoked and who never exposed themselves to asbestos get lung cancer.
* I don't know how a brown cow eats green grass and produces white milk.
* I don't know why people who have made a mess of their lives making bad decisions won’t take a serious look at the possibility that Jesus Christ could transform them. What have they got to lose?
* I don’t know why Sacramento police officers shot Stephan Clark twenty times even if they thought he had a gun in his pocket. I think any perpetrator would be immobilized by one or two bullets. But there are some things I don’t know.

There are, however, some things I know!

* I KNOW in whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed to Him.
* I know God is *for* me- Psalm 56:9
* I know I have a future. After worms or cremation’s fire have destroyed this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.
* I KNOW that my Redeemer lives!

**Illus**.

A story told by Paul Lee Tan illustrates the meaning of redemption. He said that when A.J. Gordon was pastor of a church in Boston, he met a young boy in front of the sanctuary carrying a rusty cage in which several birds fluttered nervously. Gordon inquired, "Son, where did you get those birds?" The boy replied, "I trapped them out in the field." "What are you going to do with them?" "I'm going to play with them, and then I guess I'll just feed them to an old cat we have at home." When Gordon offered to buy them, the lad exclaimed, "Mister, you don't want them, they're just little old wild birds and can't sing very well." Gordon replied, "I'll give you $2 for the cage and the birds." "Okay, it's a deal, but you're making a bad bargain." The exchange was made and the boy went away whistling, happy with his shiny coins. Gordon walked around to the back of the church property, opened the door of the small wire coop, and let the struggling creatures soar into the blue. The next Sunday he took the empty cage into the pulpit and used it to illustrate his sermon about Christ's coming to seek and to save the lost -- paying for them with His own precious blood. "That boy told me the birds were not songsters," said Gordon, "but when I released them and they winged their way heavenward, it seemed to me they were singing, 'Redeemed, redeemed, redeemed!"

You and I have been held captive to sin, but Christ has purchased our pardon and set us at liberty. When a person has this life-changing experience, he will want to sing, "Redeemed, redeemed, redeemed!"

Amen