

# Job's Redeemer<sup>1</sup>



## SABBATH—DECEMBER 10

**READ FOR THIS WEEK'S LESSON:** Job 19:25–27; John 1:1–14; Job 10:4, 5; Luke 2:11; Galatians 4:19; Luke 9:22.

**MEMORY VERSE:** “He [Jesus] suffered the things we should have suffered. He took on himself the pain that should have been ours. But we thought God was punishing him. We thought God was wounding him and making him suffer” (Isaiah 53:4, NIV).

**THE LORD SUDDENLY APPEARS TO JOB** in chapter 38. God's appearance is the climax or the high point of the book of Job. The climax or high point is the most exciting and powerful part of a story. It comes right before the story ends. God shows Himself to Job in a powerful and miraculous way. And this leads Job to confess and repent (to show sorrow for his sins). The Lord then rebukes (scolds) Job's three friends for their wrong words. And Job prays for them. “The LORD made him [Job] successful again. He [God] gave him [Job] twice as much as he had before” (Job 42:10, NIV), and Job lives a long and full life afterward.

There is something unsatisfactory about the story and how it ends. God and Satan argue in heaven and battle it out here on earth in the life and flesh of poor Job. It just does not seem fair and right that Job would be an innocent victim in this war while the Lord remains in heaven and simply watches it.

There must be more to the story. And there is. It is shown, many centuries later, in Jesus and His death on the cross. In Jesus alone we find wonderful and comforting answers to the questions that the book of Job does not answer fully.

## DEFINITIONS

1. Redeemer—a person who buys back something. Jesus bought our lives with His blood when He paid the price for our sins on the cross.

**MY REDEEMER (SAVIOR) LIVES (Job 19:25–27)**

**The words of Job point to the most important truth in the Bible: God as our Redeemer.**

When God appears to Job in chapter 38, He makes Himself known to Job as the Creator, who “ ‘tells the rain where it should fall,’ ” and the One who makes “ ‘paths for the thunderstorms’ ” . . . and who brings “ ‘water to places where no one lives’ ” (Job 38:25, 26, Nlrv). But our Lord is not only the Creator. He has another important title and job too.

**Read Job 19:25–27. What do these words teach us about Job’s hope of salvation?**

With these famous verses, Job shows that he has some knowledge of the Redeemer (Savior). He knows that people die but that there is hope beyond the grave. And this hope is found in the Redeemer, who is to come to the earth one day.

These words of Job point to what is the most important truth in the Bible: God as our Redeemer. Yes, God is our Creator. But we live in a world of sin, in a world of sinners, who are doomed to die eternally in their sins. So we need more than a Creator. We need a Redeemer too. And that is exactly who our God is: He is both our Creator and our Redeemer (read Isaiah 48:13–17). And it is from Him in both those jobs (Creator and Redeemer) that we have the great hope of eternal life.

**Read John 1:1–14. In these verses, how does John tie together Jesus as Creator with Jesus as our Redeemer?**

John 1:1 clearly hints at or brings to mind Genesis 1:1, which points to God as Creator. And John 1:10–12 shows a connection between Jesus as Creator and His work as Redeemer. “The Word [Jesus] was in the world that was made through him. . . . But his own people did not accept him. Some people did accept him. They believed in his name. He [Jesus] gave them the right to become children of God” (John 1:10–12, Nlrv). It is because Jesus is the Creator that He can be our Redeemer too.

**If we had only a Creator but no Redeemer, what hope would we have? What does your answer say about why Jesus as Redeemer is so important to us?**

## THE SON OF MAN (Job 10:4, 5)

In the earliest chapters of Job, we are given a quick view of just how real the great controversy (war between Christ and Satan) is. As we know, it is a battle that starts in heaven. Later, it comes to the earth (read Revelation 12:7–12). In the book of Job we find that same theme: a war in heaven that comes to earth. Unhappily, for Job, that war on earth centers on him.

**Read Job 10:4, 5. What is Job’s complaint? And what point does he make?**

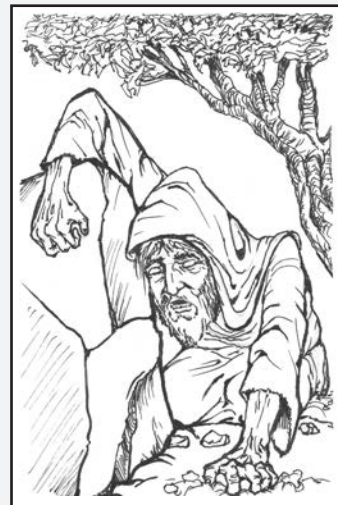
Job’s point is simple. You are God, the Ruler of the universe, the Creator. How can You know what it is like to be a human, to suffer the things that we suffer?

**Read Luke 2:11; John 1:14; Luke 19:10; Matthew 4:2; 1 Timothy 2:5; and Hebrews 4:15. How do these verses answer Job’s complaint?**

Job’s complaint is that God is not a human and for that reason could not know human suffering. But God answers these charges<sup>2</sup> fully and completely when Jesus comes into the world as a human. Jesus never loses His divine (godly) nature. But He is also fully human. And while in human form, He knows what it is like to suffer and struggle, just as Job and all humans do. In fact, all through the Gospels,<sup>3</sup> we read about how real Jesus is in His human form and the sufferings that He went through as a human. So Jesus answers Job’s complaint.

“It was not make-believe [not real] human form that Christ took upon Himself. He took human nature and lived human nature. . . . He was made flesh, and He was made in the likeness of sinful flesh.”—Adapted from Ellen G. White Comments, *The SDA Bible Commentary [Explanation]*, volume 5, page 1124.

**Think what it means that Jesus accepted human nature. What should this tell you about how closely He can relate to you in any of the struggles that you are facing right now?**



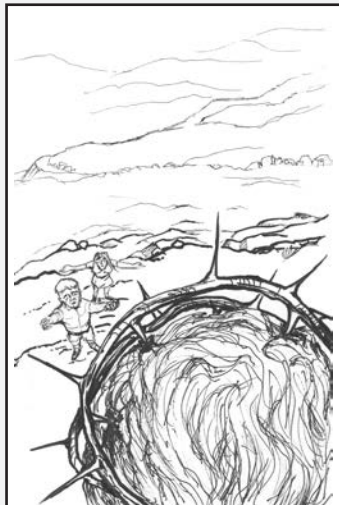
**While in human form, Jesus knows what it is like to suffer and struggle, just as Job and all humans do.**

## DEFINITIONS

2. charges—words that blame someone for wrongdoing.

3. Gospels—the first four books of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

## THE DEATH OF CHRIST (1 John 2:6)



**Jesus came to die the death that we deserve so that His perfect life can be given to us as our own.**

**Read 1 John 2:6 and Galatians 4:19. What do these verses tell us about Jesus and how we are to think about Him?**

---

Without question, Jesus is the model Man. His life—His character (thoughts; feelings; actions)—is the example that all who follow Him should copy with the help of God’s grace (godly power and strength). Jesus is the *only* perfect example we have of how to live the kind of life to which God calls us.

Still, Jesus does not come to this earth just to give us an example. Our situation as sinners called for more than just character growth. Yes, changing our characters and forming us into His image is important work for Jesus as our Redeemer. But we need more than that. We need a Substitute, Someone to pay the price for our sins. Jesus came not just to live a perfect life as an example to us all. He came also to die the death that we deserve so that His perfect life can be given to us as our own.

**Read Mark 8:31; Luke 9:22; Luke 24:7; and Galatians 2:21. What do these verses teach us about why Christ’s death for us is necessary?**

---

Obedience to the law is important. But it does not save sinners. For this reason, Christ had to die for us. “So is the law opposed to God’s promises? Certainly not! What if a law had been given that could give life? Then people could become right with God by obeying the law” (Galatians 3:21, NIV). If any law could save a sinner, it would be God’s. But even that law cannot save us. Only the perfect life of our perfect Example, Jesus, could save us. And so Christ came to offer Himself as “one sacrifice for sins forever” (Hebrews 10:12, NKJV).

**How does your own record of law keeping show you why you need a Substitute?**

---

## THE SUFFERINGS OF THE SON OF MAN (JESUS) (Isaiah 53:1–6)

**Read Isaiah 53:1–6. What do these verses tell us about the sufferings of the Lord on the cross?**

Isaiah 53:4 says that Jesus carried (accepted) our griefs and sorrows. That must include Job’s griefs and sorrows too. And not just Job’s alone but the whole world’s also. It was for the sin of all humans who ever lived that Jesus died on the cross.

Only at the cross can we better understand the book of Job. Here we have the same God who shows Himself to Job. He is the God who teaches the eagle to fly. He is the God who sets all the atoms working together for the good of all humans. How He suffered more than any human, even Job, ever suffered or could suffer! The griefs and sorrows that each one of us knows, He accepted them all together. No one, then, can lecture<sup>4</sup> God on suffering, not when He as a human carries in Himself the full load of all the suffering that sin has spread around the world. We know only our own private griefs, only our own private sorrows. But at the cross, Jesus experienced them all.

God asks Job, “‘Do you know the laws that govern [rule] the heavens? Can you rule over the earth the way I do?’” (Job 38:33, NIV). God becomes more amazing (wonderful) when we understand that He created the “‘laws that govern the heavens.’” And He also took upon Himself human form, and as a human He dies so that He “could destroy the one who rules over the kingdom of death. I’m [I am] talking about the devil” (Hebrews 2:14, NIV).

The book of Job makes more sense with the Cross than it does without it. The Cross answers many questions the book of Job leaves unanswered. And the biggest question of all deals with how fair it is for God to be up in heaven while Job is forced to suffer in order to help deny Satan’s charges. The Cross shows that our Lord voluntarily suffered so much worse than any of us could in order to give us the hope of salvation.

Job sees God as Creator. After the Cross, we see Him as Creator and Redeemer. More exactly, we see Him as the Creator who became our Redeemer (Philippians 2:6–8). And to do that, Jesus had to suffer from sin in ways that no human being, Job included, would or could ever suffer. So, like Job, what can we do but say: “I hate myself. I’m [I am] really sorry for what I said about you. That’s [that is] why I’m [I am] sitting in dust and ashes” (Job 42:6, NIV)?

### DEFINITIONS

4. lecture—to give a talk, or a series of talks, that teaches a lesson or subject.



**SATAN UNMASKED (EXPOSED) (John 12:30–32)**

**“Lucifer opened the door for the entrance of sin by his desire for glory [praise].”**

**Read John 12:30–32. What is Jesus saying will happen to Satan as a result of the Cross and the great controversy?**

Ellen G. White in *The Great Controversy* talks about the death of Jesus on the cross. Then she explains the powerful influence His death has in heaven and for the watching universe. “Satan’s lying charges against God’s character and government appeared in their true light. Satan had accused God of glorifying [honoring and praising] Himself by requiring surrender and obedience from His people. Satan also had claimed that the Creator required self-denial from all others. But He Himself practiced no self-denial and made no sacrifice. Now angels and heavenly beings could see that it was love that encouraged the Ruler of the universe to make the greatest sacrifice to save all sinners. It was God ‘bringing the world back to Himself through Christ.’ 2 Corinthians 5:19, NIV. It was seen also that Lucifer had opened the door for the entrance of sin by his desire for glory [praise] and his desire to rule over God. Christ had, in order to destroy sin, humbled Himself and become obedient unto death.”—Adapted from *The Great Controversy*, page 502.

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:19. How does Christ’s death bring the fallen world back to God?**

The world had fallen into sin, into rebellion (war against God). It had left itself open to the evil plans of Satan as we understand so clearly in the book of Job. But Jesus volunteered to become a human while never losing His nature as God. While so doing, He made an unbreakable bond between heaven and earth. And with His death, He guaranteed the final destruction and removal of sin and Satan. At the cross, Jesus paid the legal price for sin, bringing the fallen world back to God. We are sinners. Our sins are punishable by death. But by faith we can have the promise of eternal life in Jesus.

**Whatever sins you have done, Jesus paid the full price for them at the cross. Why should this amazing (wonderful) truth change your life and cause you to want to live in obedience to Him?**

**ADDITIONAL THOUGHT:** “ ‘ “Now it is time for the world to be judged,” ’ Jesus said. ‘ “Now the prince of this world [Satan] will be thrown out. But I am going to be lifted up from the earth. When I am, I will bring all people to myself.” He said this to show them how he was going to die’ (John 12:31–33, NIV). This is the crisis of the world. Jesus thought to Himself, ‘If I become the sacrifice for the sins of men, the world will be lighted up. Satan’s hold upon the souls of men will be broken. The spoiled image of God will be restored [made new; brought back] in humans. And a family of believing saints finally will receive the heavenly home.’ This newness is the result of Christ’s death. The Saviour is lost in deep thought over the glorious [beautiful; wonderful] scene that appeared before Him in the near future. He sees the cross, the cruel cross, with all its horrors. But it is lighted up with glory [beauty and praise].

“But the work of human salvation is not all that is done by the cross. The love of God is shown to the universe. The prince of this world is thrown out. The charges that Satan has brought against God are proven false. The stain that Satan has thrown upon heaven is forever removed. Angels and humans are attracted to the Redeemer.”—Adapted from Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, pages 625, 626.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ① What other ways can you think of that show how the life and death of Jesus answered questions that the book of Job left unanswered?
- ② Think over what the Cross teaches us about the character of God. This is especially true when we realize that the One who created us was the One who died for us on the cross. Why should this give us so much hope and comfort, no matter what troubles we are now facing? How can this wonderful truth teach us to trust in God and in His goodness? (Read Romans 8:32.)
- ③ The book of Job shows that the great controversy between Christ and Satan has been going on both in heaven and on the earth itself. Imagine what it must have been like for angels, who knew Jesus only in His heavenly glory (great honor and praise), to see Him go through what He did on the cross. How can thinking deeply about this amazing idea help us to better appreciate what we have been given in Jesus?