

Standing on the Rock

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Introduction:

During the 1970's many teenagers in the Atlanta area would ride bicycles from various suburbs to Stone Mountain Park. Here, we find one of the wonders of this world. A large granite formation stands towering over the earth below. The sloped side has a trail 1.3 miles long to the top. Standing atop the tremendous rock, one can see for miles. Viewing God's creation from such a beautiful and solid position will bring a sense of peace from a seemingly mad world. Would not it be wonderful to have a faith that would provide that peace as solid as a rock?

Philippians 4:7

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.¹

We can find that peace if we will simply put our faith in God and seek His righteousness through obedience. Job is a character from which we can glean great lessons in standing on the Solid Rock of Almighty God.

Text:

Job 19:25

25 For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

Thesis:

Job finds himself confused and deeply in pain because of his circumstances. Job points out clearly that God Almighty is just and victory will come to those who side with the Lord.

Discussion:

I, the statement of value and valor.

a) Statement of Value

Job begins his discourse at chapter 19 with rebuttal of the statements made by his "friends". Basically Job expresses the pain of being "kicked while he was down." Could it have been that Bildad, Eliphaz and Zophar were tools used by God to help Job maintain his focus?

Consider the positions in which we have seen Job at this point. The book opens with a description of Job being one who was complete, morally upstanding, gentle and avoided evil continually. (Job 1:1) It would appear, by the actions recorded in the following verses, Job fully understood from where his blessings came. The text indicates that Job was concerned about pleasing God and making sure his children were in a forgiven relationship with God. Perhaps Job fully realized that his value came not from his physical blessings but from his desire to do all possible to be righteous before God.

This is quite a contrast from that we see today from many who are very blessed by God. Often we see those whose wealth has generated a hunger for more that cannot be satisfied. Children are left with others to be reared or perhaps must find their own way practically as orphans while parents pile up prizes for the neighbors to view. This "chase for the gold" is a mistaken attempt for one to demonstrate his value by the count and size of his toys. What a blessing it is when we discover the value of the soul.

Genesis 1:26-27

26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the

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cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Job 27:8

8 For what is the hope of the hypocrite, though he hath gained, when God taketh away his soul?

Matthew 16:26

26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

What a blessing and joy it is to be created in the image of God. God has given man dominion over the earth and placed within him an eternal soul of value man cannot fully comprehend.

Job seemed to understand that even in a time of suffering man has value before God. Though Job expresses confusion over the reason for the suffering, he boldly proclaims his rock solid belief in God beginning with the simple word "I".

b) Statement of Valor

It would have been easy for Job to have given up and followed his wife's advice. "Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die" (Job 2:9). It seems wrapped in the simple word "I", Job steps forward. He refuses to allow depression, pain and the verbal abuse of his "friends" to cause him to end his suffering through suicide.

Let us not mis-understand Job's brave words as arrogant. Job was humbled and in the pain of this experience and yet he stepped out onto the Rock he knew as almighty God even though others would have him give up.

II) Know, the statement of fact and faith.

a) Statement of Fact

The text indicates to us that Job lived during the patriarchal age recording Job sacrificing for his children as the head of the household. Job knew that the Almighty God is just and provided him with the blessings he enjoyed.

Job 1:21

21 And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

Job had directly seen the marvelous works of God. He had obviously received direction from God. Job knew that God had never left him in the dark concerning righteous living. Therefore, the fact is though he did not understand his current circumstances and all others had forsaken him, God's purpose would prevail.

b) Statement of Faith

Job 19:6-7

6 Know now that God hath overthrown me, and hath compassed me with his net.

7 Behold, I cry out of wrong, but I am not heard: I cry aloud, but there is no judgment.

What a lonely feeling it must have been for Job to perceive that he cried out to God and not be heard. The emotional and physical pain was brutal and Job knew of no relief in site. It seemed he would suffer alone while others crushed his hope and yet the facts of his life built a foundation of faith.

Hebrews 11:1

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

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Job indicated, “no doubt”, would interrupt his looking to God for relief no matter the time. So many today, would be as his wife indicated and become angry and sin against God. The timeless lesson we find here is that we must remember that God is in control.

Job had known contact with God. Now it seemed that no one answered the phone as he cried out and yet he knew God was on the other end. Job knew beyond the shadow of a doubt that his redeemer would come in due time.

III) My Redeemer, the statement of possession, power and position.

a) Statement of Possession

While under the glaring eye of his “friends”, Job states that he has one who would defend him. The trio of accusers seem to try to convince Job that he has long lost the battle of his own defense. In this rebuttal, Job introduces one in whom he has full confidence presenting his defense. So focused on Job’s condition, the trio may have failed to see their individual need for one to defend them.

b) Statement of Power

This one of whom Job spoke was not simply one who would plead his case but one with authority.

The word ‘Redeemer’ translates the Hebrew term *goel*. The various derivatives of this word are found 118 times in the Old Testament. The *goel* was the next of kin. It was his responsibility to restore the fortune, liberty, and name of his relative, when necessary, and to redress his wrongs, especially to avenge the shedding of innocent blood. Other kinsmen may forsake him, but he has an abiding confidence that there is One who ultimately will not ! Who, in Job’s mind, was this Redeemer? Certainly not man; only God was qualified for such a task!²

We can find ourselves in such horrible positions due to bad decisions that lead us to separate from God. In order to restore our place with God the demand is greater than man could repay with the entire world. God created all and therefore all belongs to Him. Rebuilding that paramount relationship requires power from the Almighty God. The amazing part is that God has offered man opportunity to be redeemed.

In order to have such power to redeem Job from this lowly position, his Redeemer must command from a high and honorable position.

c) Statement of Position

The Redeemer is one of great value. The Redeemer is in a position directly connected with the Almighty God. This is the only position capable of the power to rebuild man’s relationship with God.

Job found himself surrounded by those who would indicate that his blessings and defense by God had ceased. Over and over the trio would try to cause Job to reveal some awful sin that he had committed which would be the cause of his circumstance. Can you hear the whispers of Satan in the ears of the trio, telling Job that God was no more at his defense? Job had seen too many facts indicating the infinite power of the Almighty God to believe that He was no longer active. Job proclaims that his Redeemer lives.

IV) Liveth, the statement of activity, all-knowledge and all-seeing.

a) Statement of Activity

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Job knew himself and he knew his God. Job knew well that he was innocent of such charges as his “friends” would assert. He was in pain. Job did want relief, but he would not forsake Almighty God. Barnes makes this observation:

[Liveth] Is alive - chay Septuagint, immortal-[aennaos]. He seems now to have forsaken me as if he were dead, but my faith is unwavering in him as a living vindicator. A similar expression occurs in Job 16:19. "My witness is in heaven, and my record is on high." It is a declaration of entire confidence in God, and will beautifully convey the emotions of the sincere believer in all ages. He may be afflicted with disease, or the loss of property, or be forsaken by his friends, or persecuted by his foes, but if he can look up to heaven and say, "I know that my Redeemer lives," he will have peace.³

Job knew that God is alive and active. The same God that had blessed him richly has a cause for His activities whether we understand them or not.

b) Statement of All Knowledge

Job makes this proclamation with no room left for doubt. Job’s perception indicated that his conviction was that God is his accuser, persecutor and witness to his life of innocence.⁴ Since God is alive and well, He certainly knew Job’s life, blessings and flaws. This same God would be active in redeeming Job from the pain he now suffered whether it is in this life or the next.

c) Statement of All Seeing

Perhaps Job’s friends would have been wise to realize that the same God that had blessed Job was still witness to all on the earth. Job indicated that God is just and will consider His own. Man is limited in his knowledge by his limited vision. Job communicates, “I do not so justify myself before the world, but I know that I will come before the great judge who will be my deliverer and Saviour.”⁵

V) Stand, the statement of vindication and victory

a) Statement of Vindication

This verse appears to beg the question, who will be the one to vindicate? Bible scholars remind us that to sin against God is to make sin infinite as God is infinite. Therefore, it would take an infinite power to justify those who have sinned.

The logical conclusion is that God is the redeemer to whom he looks for vindication of his cause.

The word “day” (KJV) does not occur in the Hebrew Text, so translators have rendered it differently. “At last” (ASV); “at the last” (NASB), “in the end” (NIV). The most popular meaning is “afterward” or “at some later time” – at some future time. “Will stand up” i.e., the redeemer will make Himself visible; the “earth upon which He will stand, literally is “dust.”⁶

Job has full confidence that his just God will exonerate him of wrong doing that those who have gathered suggest.

b) Statement of Victory

The very idea of taking a stand leads us to a mental picture of the unmovable and undefeated. As we began this study we considered the mammoth rock called Stone Mountain. Carving a caricature into the steep slope, unnumbered lightning strikes, earth quakes, and devastating storms could not move this mountain. The picture our minds can grasp here helps us to understand the strength and power of the Almighty, Just God of Heaven.

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Conclusion

The God of Job's day is the eternal God of our day. One great lesson we can learn from Job is that when the troubles of life are weighing heavy, we can take confidence in our eternal God. God does hear our prayers. Applying our trust to Him will give us the peace that passes all understanding (Philippians 4:7).

Matthew 7:24-27

24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

Hebrews 13:8

8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

¹ The Holy Bible. King James Version, (Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 1991). All references are to this version unless otherwise stated.

² Wayne Jackson, The Book of Job, Quality Publications, 1983, pp. 52-53.

³ Barnes' Notes, Electronic Database Copyright © 1997, 2003 by BibleSoft, Inc. All rights reserved

⁴ Homer Haley, A Commentary on Job, Religious Supply Inc., 1994, p. 176.

⁵ Geneva Notes, PC Study Bible formatted electronic database Copyright © 2003 BibleSoft, Inc. All rights reserved

⁶ Homer Haley, A Commentary on Job, Religious Supply Inc., 1994, pp. 176-177