Even So, My Redeemer Lives

Key verse: “But I know that my redeemer is alive and afterward he’ll rise upon the dust” (Job 19:25).

The story of Job is one of the oldest and best known stories in the Bible. It’s the story of a good and righteous man who experiences terrible troubles and trials. He loses houses and land, suffers the death of his children, and endures intense physical suffering.

Job’s story has a happy ending as God restores and blesses Job’s life: “The Lord blessed the latter part of Job’s life more than the first” (Job 42:12). But Job 19 finds Job in the middle of his terrible ordeal. Adding to Job’s sufferings, his so-called friends blame Job for his troubles. Job must have sinned horribly, they reason, for so much trouble to come his way. Job responds:

“How long will you harass me and crush me with words? These ten times you’ve humiliated me; shamelessly you insult me. Have I really gone astray? If so, my error remains hidden inside me” (Job 19:2-4).

In the next verses, as Job struggles with the questions surrounding his suffering, he concludes that God must be against him: “If you look down on me and use my disgrace to criticize me, know that God has wronged me and enclosed his net over me” (Job 19:5-6).

Job’s questioning reaches a spiritual high point when, in verse 25, Job expresses faith that ultimately God will vindicate him: “But I know that my redeemer is alive and afterward he’ll rise upon the dust.”

In our trials, well-intentioned people may offer cookie-cutter explanations for the timeless question of *why bad things happen to good people*. Often, there are no easy answers—at least not this side of eternity. But God is still God and God is still good, even when the answers elude us.

There is a story about an old man who lived in a little village:

_He was the poorest man in the village, but he owned the most beautiful white stallion. And the king had offered him a small fortune for it. After a terribly harsh winter, during which the old man and his family nearly starved, the townspeople came to visit._
“Old man,” they said, “you can hardly afford to feed your family. Sell the stallion, and you will be rich. If you do not, you are a fool.”

“It’s too early to tell,” replied the old man. A few months later, the old man woke up to find that the white stallion had run away.

Once again the townspeople came, and they said to the old man, “See, if you had sold the king your horse, you would be rich. Now you have nothing! You are a fool!”

“It’s too early to tell,” replied the old man.

Two weeks later, the white stallion returned, and along with it came three other white stallions.

“Old man,” the townspeople said, “we are the fools! Now you can sell the stallion to the king, and you will still have three stallions left. You are smart.”

“It’s too early to tell,” said the old man.

The following week, the old man’s son, his only son, was breaking in one of the stallions and was thrown, crushing both legs. The townspeople paid a visit to the old man, and they said, “Old man, if you had just sold the stallion to the king, you’d be rich, and your son would not be crippled. You are a fool.”

“It is too early to tell,” said the old man.

Well, the next month, war broke out with the neighboring village. All of the young men in the village were sent into the battle, and all were killed. The townspeople came, and they cried to the old man, “We have lost our sons. You are the only one who has not. If you had sold your stallion to the king, your son, too, would be dead. You are so smart!”

“It’s too early to tell,” said the old man.

People are often quick to offer easy explanations for why bad things happen. The truth is, we often just don’t know why. But even when we don’t have all the answers, even when “it’s too early to tell,” God is still God, and God is still good.

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