

# "RESURRECTION"

**JOB 19:23-27**

**By Mike Burnham**

Sometimes we are asked to bear some hard things by God in this life. And when we ask why, we don't always get an answer. It is at this time we need to trust in the goodness and wisdom of God the most, at the time when it is the hardest.

Job lived around the time of Abraham and maybe some time before. About 2000 or so years before Christ. He was an upright man, one who feared God and avoided evil, rich in material things, in fact he was the richest man in the east, and he was blessed with a large family (seven sons and three daughters).

God allowed Job to go through some hard times. He lost his estate, his animals, his children, his health, and his esteem. This didn't happen over a period of time but all except his health happened within a few minutes, one right after the other. What did Job do? (Job 1:20-22). Then when his health was taken even his wife wanted him to die, (2:9,10). He sat on a garbage dump in his misery outside the city scraping the puss from his boils, that covered him from the sole of his feet to the top of his head, with pieces of broken pots and three friends came and sat near him.

Job was in a quandary. He was unsure of his standing before God. He wants to repair his relationship with God that he thought was good. In 9:32,33,34 Job expresses his problem. How can I answer God in defense of myself since his awesomeness terrifies me and separates us. We cannot come together like two men do and talk things over. I need a lawyer, a mediator, to stand between God and me, one who understands and is equal with man, and at the same time one who understands and is equal with God. One who can put his arms around both of us and bring us together and reconcile us. See verse 35. The answer to his plea is 1 Tim. 2:5; 1 John 2:1. We have a lawyer to plead our cause, and a mediator to reconcile us to God. Through Christ the terror of God's awesomeness is gone, he is now our father

in heaven. He is still awesome, but not terrifying as he was to Moses and Israel at mt. Sinai, (Heb. 12:18-24. God is no longer separated from us because Christ did away with the wall of separation, by his blood, which was sin.

As Job's friends accuse him of hypocrisy, wrong motives, and disregard his arguments, Job, in 19:23,24, felt that he was not likely to have justice done by his generation, so he expressed a desire to have his story engraved in stone for a permanent record so future generations could know his innocence and judge between him and his accusers. (his desire was granted with a much more permanent record than stone would have provided, in the written word of God).

Then Job did something that all of us in times of trouble and despair should do. With incredible faith and revelation he turned away from his wretched circumstances and fastened his gaze on God, v-25, (2 cor. 4:17,18,5:1,7). When Job looked at the things unseen by faith all his despair and pain faded away. He was convicted that no matter what happens to him or how long his affliction lasted, he has one who will redeem, vindicate him, and though he seems to have forsaken him as if he is dead now, he knows his redeemer lives. It is a declaration of entire confidence in God.

In verses 26,27 Job was convinced that when he awakes, even when his body was eaten away and turned to dust in the grave, there will come a time in the last day--when his redeemer stands on the earth--that in his resurrected body he would see God. The mention of skin, flesh, and eyes make it clear that Job expects to have this experience as a man, not as a disembodied spirit or in his mind.

"and not another" I will see for myself, not through the eyes of a stranger who would then tell me that i should hear.

We too have this same hope, 1 John 3:2; Rom. 8:18,19,23; 1 Pet. 1:6-9. We would be a much happier, joyful, and convincing people if we would, like Job, keep our eyes on Jesus and the things set before us, Heb. 12:2. Heaven is where everything we hold as valuable, everything our heart yearns for is to be, Mat. 6:21. This is where our minds should be, Col. 3:2. Circumstances, trials and troubles will fade away and become unimportant if we will just trust in God's goodness and infinite

wisdom and look up instead of down, Rom. 8:18; 1 Pet. 1:3-7.

God never did tell Job why he went through those trials, even though Job desperately wanted to know. But when they were over his understanding of God and himself greater, and with this greater knowledge came a closer relationship with God, and greater temporal blessing for himself.