



Weekly Inspirations

By Pastor Pat Thompson

November 10, 2025



For *I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth...* (Job 19:25).

I have always said that the Book of Job is possibly the most important book of the Old Testament for the message it conveys. It is also the least understood. It is *not* simply an encouragement to remain steadfast amid suffering. It is the declaration that *redemption* is not only possible but assured.

Job contains an important moral lesson that frankly flies in the face of what all humans—including those who ought to know better—seem to believe at one time or another, namely that we have *caused* our own calamity by our disobedience to God. At the beginning of the book, we are told that Job was “blameless and upright” (v. 1). He suffers losses that no man should ever endure, and yet he remains faithful. That’s where most people stop in summarizing the moral of the story, but that is not the point.

The plot thickens as his three friends show up to counsel him, and their consensus is that for all of Job’s presumed moral perfection he must have erred somewhere because, after all, bad things don’t happen to good people. You and I know that’s not true, and so we come closer to the point of the book.

The message of Job becomes a corrective to the wrong-headed notions of Israel’s early history— notions that still exist in the modern era in which we live. No one, strictly speaking, causes his/her own suffering—at least not in some purely moralistic scheme in which virtue is mechanically rewarded with a life of pure bliss, while bad behavior is punished by a petty deity intent on retribution. No, stuff happens, whether we are good or bad, virtuous or venal. But the afflictions of the moment are never lasting; restoration and redemption will win out in the end according to the benevolent design of the Supreme Architect of the Universe.

G.F. Handel includes a moving soprano aria in his monumental oratorio *Messiah* in which the audience is reminded of Job’s declaration: *I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth*. Christians have reinterpreted those ancient words to refer to Jesus, but their essence is not the specific domain of Christians. The conviction that God is constantly raising up all things to newness of life is evident throughout the Hebrew Scriptures as well as in the New Testament. It is all according to God’s design and emanates from God’s abundant compassion.

There are no lost causes, and no lost people. For all things are redeemable, and nothing that God has made ever goes to waste!

Faithfully and fraternally,

Pat