

I KNOW  
THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES

**Keith S. Fifer**

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## I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES

I have often been impressed by the way some speakers can take a verse, or a text of a few words, from the Bible, and draw out from it a wealth of meaning—and many lessons for today. That is exactly what I am aiming for in this booklet, and I have a head start because the two verses I have chosen are full to the brim of wonderful meaning within their Biblical content, and also for us today.

The text opens with these well-known words – “*I know that my Redeemer lives*”. It’s not difficult to guess who the Redeemer is. After all, the verse comes from the Bible, and there is only one Redeemer in the Bible—the Lord Jesus Christ.

But here is someone who knows (a very definite word **‘KNOW’**) for sure that his redeemer lives. Therefore, he must know that he is redeemed because he says “my redeemer”.

What does it mean ‘to be redeemed’? The dictionary gives this meaning—“to rescue from bondage by paying a ransom; to fulfil, as a promise; to make amends for; to atone for; to regain possession by repurchase”. Theologically, it means “to rescue and deliver from the bondage of sin, and the penalties of disobeying God’s commandments”. So the writer of these words knows that he is delivered from the bondage of sin and from the penalty of disobedience to God. He knows he is saved and, being released from God’s penalty, has eternal life. He knows that he is forgiven and will inherit the Kingdom of God.

So the first part of our verse has this great and profound message, and so is tremendously meaningful in itself. But there is another interesting reason, a very special reason, why these words are quite remarkable. This reason becomes clear when we consider who said the words, and when they were said. Let’s see if we can place them in the Bible.

I wonder how many would say they come the New Testament—after all, they speak of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, therefore we could assume they come from the New Testament.

But I wonder how many would be surprised to learn that they not only come from the Old Testament, but also from one of the oldest books of the Bible—the Book of Job. Bible authorities believe it was most probably written over 1000 years before Christ was born.

How does the verse continue? *“I know that my Redeemer lives and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth”*. Job says that Jesus Christ, the Redeemer, is going to stand upon the earth, and he writes it over 1000 years before it actually happens. How would Job know that?

- He decided it himself
- Someone told him

Of course, we know that someone told him and we know that someone is God. How do we know this? Because only someone who knew the future could tell him, and only one person knew that God was going to stand on the earth in the person of Jesus Christ—God himself.

In fact, it is a declared characteristic of our God—the God of the Bible—that he tells us ahead of time what is going to happen, and he usually tells us many years, often many centuries, in advance of the events occurring.

His intention to do this is recorded in Isaiah, Chapter 46, verse 10, as follows:

*“I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things not yet done”*.

Then God proceeds to prophesy, that is, to foretell through his prophets, many of the main events of the Bible, and of history. Events such as:

- ◆ The Great Flood
- ◆ The building of a Jewish nation from the descendants of Abraham
- ◆ Their enslavement in Egypt

- ◆ Their deliverance from slavery to the promised land under Moses
- ◆ The main events of their chequered career in that land, and out of it in captivity in Babylon for 70 years
- ◆ Interestingly, their return to the Promised Land from around the world, which occurred in 1948, in the lifetime of many people presently alive to recall it—and that against enormous odds
- ◆ More importantly, the coming of the Messiah, the Lord Jesus—where, when and how he would be born.
- ◆ And how he would live, and how and when he would die
- ◆ How the Gentiles, that’s you and me, would believe in him
- ◆ His second coming, and the conditions applying in the world to precede it.

This is tremendously important—for one thing, it demonstrates that this magnificent book is indeed the very word of the living God. You know, people have often said to me that the Bible was only written by men—NOT TRUE. Surely, it was written by men but not only by men –no man could possibly know what is written here—how could they?-- with over 2000 fulfilled prophecies. How then did they write it? Of course, the Bible tells us; it tells us everything we need to know.

In 2 Peter 1:20 “*no prophecy of scripture ever came by the impulse of man, but men moved by the Holy Spirit, spoken from God*”. People who say it is only written by men are trying to prove it is fallible—but when we realise it is written through men by God it is not fallible but TRUE

But to return to our text—Job says, “*I know that my Redeemer lives*”. That means that Jesus Christ was alive before he was born, and we now know that, because we can read (from the Living Bible) John 1:1 “*Before anything else existed there was Christ with God; he has always been alive and is himself God.*” Also, Jesus said, “*Before Abraham was I am.*”

I don't know about you, but I just love roaming back and forth through the Bible and picking up these glorious truths that give my faith such a mighty boost—seeing how the words of the Old Testament reinforce those of the New and vice versa—seeing how 66 books written by 40 different people over 1500 years all

say the same things—sorry, written through 40 different people by the one person. Why would they not say the same things?

What does Job go on to say? There are further amazing things to come, for he says *“though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God”*. So Job foresees that his body is going to rot in the earth and be eaten by worms, yet he will see God in his flesh. There's only one way for this to happen—he will need a new body, just as Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:51: *“We shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet, for the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised imperishable”*.

So in this one brief passage we have the main themes of the Christian faith. We have—

- ◆ The everlasting nature of Jesus—he lives before his birth
- ◆ We have the incarnation—God coming to stand on the earth in the person of Jesus
- ◆ We have Jesus as redeemer, setting us free from the bondage of sin through faith in him
- ◆ We have the concept of the personal God, in my redeemer
- ◆ We have the assurance of salvation—“I know”.
- ◆ We have the resurrection from the dead to new bodies
- ◆ We have the entry into the presence of God – we'll see God
- ◆ Over all this we have the prophetic nature of the word of God, and God's willingness to share with mankind ahead of time what

will surely happen—how magnificent ! These two verses written so long ago are a mini-bible in themselves.

And what is the significance of these verses to us today, apart from the mighty importance of what we have already discussed?

If we look at Job's condition when he uttered these words we can learn more. He

had lost everything he held dear—his family and all his possessions—he sat in the dirt scraping his itching sores with a piece of pottery.

In this desperate state Job was able to say “I know that my redeemer lives”. He looked from his present miserable state to the hope of the ages—Jesus the Saviour of the World.

As Paul says many centuries later when speaking of the difficulties of this life—“*The sufferings of this present time are not to be compared to the glories which are to be revealed to us*” . Romans 8:18

Job's strong faith in time of deep trouble was built over many years of devotion to his God—in good times.

As we reflect upon the glory of our God made manifest through his word and through Jesus Christ (who is called his Word) while we are not in trouble or suffering, we build up reserves of faith for difficult times which will surely come.

Finally, let me return to Job's magnificent words of assurance—“*I know that my Redeemer lives*”.

Not all church-going Christians have this assurance that they are saved and will be with the Lord forever.

These words of assurance are repeated in the New Testament where John writes in 1 John 5:13 :

“*These things I have written to you, who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.*”