

Jesus lives, Christians! He is alive! What joy that brings to us this day! The Easter joy on this Easter day that will never come to an end. Because he is alive, we have hope in the midst of every trouble! We have peace in the midst of every turmoil! And it's not something that we can just forget about and go home and forget all about it there. It is a joy without end, a joy of knowing that our Savior is alive! So we can rejoice with Job in the words of our song which we just sang: "I know that my Redeemer lives! What comfort this sweet sentence gives. He lives. He lives! Who once was dead. He lives, my ever living head." May this Easter joy, Christians, be yours today, now and always.

Because Job in our text for today is a perfect example of what it means to have Easter joy in the midst of all of our troubles. Because think about all of the things that Job had to endure. Job lost all of his possessions all on one day. His livestock were stolen away from him. And worse than that still, on the same day, he lost all of his children in an accident. One of those things all by themselves would be bad enough, but to endure both of them on the same day means that Job suffered in a way that few people in the history of the world suffer. But it got worse than that, because he also lost his health, so that he was not only suffering mentally and suffering emotionally, he was also suffering physically as well. To put up with all of these things all at the same time must have made him wonder: where can I find my hope in the midst of such trouble?

But probably the worst thing of all through all of it, Christians, was his friends. His friends who came to him and accused him of many things. "You must've done something wrong, Job! Otherwise you wouldn't be suffering in the way that you are. God must be angry with you for some reason. That's why all of these things have come upon you. What hope can you possibly have, if God is angry with you? Where can you find help in the midst of all of your troubles?" Even his own wife said to him: "Curse God and die!" He needed to find hope in the midst of trouble, hope through all of life's turmoil.

Christians, do we not sometimes find ourselves in a similar situation, enduring the same kinds of trials, the same kinds of troubles that life brings with it? Maybe you are dealing with some kind of loss: the loss of a job or the loss of possessions. Just think of the great fire out in Medora right now, the destruction that that must be bringing with it. How do we find hope in the midst of such loss? How do we find hope in the midst of such destruction? Or maybe you're dealing with grief, the loss of a loved one, and wondering, "Where can I find peace in the midst of this grief? Where can I find hope for the days ahead?" Maybe you're dealing with some kind of injustice, some terrible situation in your life that you can't do anything about, but it's still affecting you and pushing you down. Where will you find help? Where will you find justice in the midst of all of this? Or maybe we're just dealing with the reality of death. To know that death is something that waits for all of us. Where can we find hope in the face of it?

The world is not going to give you much help. The world will not give you hope. The best they're gonna be able to say is: "Well, it happens. There's nothing you can really do about it. Maybe it'll get better." But that's all the world can really say, because the world can't give a real hope. Or maybe even worse, the world would say: "You deserved it. You deserved it for the things that you did. You deserve everything that is happening to you." So where do we find hope in the midst of life's troubles? Where do we find hope in the face of such pain?

But Christians, Job has hope! Job has hope even in the midst of his suffering. Job has hope even in the midst of all of his trials. Job has hope even if it seems a really long ways off. Because he knows that help will come. He knows that he will find the help that he needs. He's not going to find it among his friends. He knows that. He's not going to find it in the world around him. But where he will find it is in the future, when his help will come to him. And God will prove him right. This is why he says: "O that my words were written!" Write these words down so that future generations may know them. "O that they were inscribed in a book!" Bind them up, because these words are trustworthy and true. "O with an iron pen and lead, they were engraved in the rock forever!" Chisel them into stone. Fill that stone in with lead. A monument that will go on for centuries! Because his help is coming, Christians. "I know that my Redeemer lives, and on the end he will stand upon the earth." His Redeemer is alive! And that means that no matter what he is suffering, no matter what he is going through, he has the help that he needs. He has hope for the future. God himself will come and will vindicate him in the sight of his accusers, will vindicate him in the sight of his enemies. God will prove him right and silence those who would try to bring him down.

But this isn't an empty hope, Christians. This isn't some kind of hollow victory, as if Job could just say: "Well, maybe God will say that I was right somewhere down the future." No! "In my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold and not another." Either in this life or in the life to come, when God himself will come down and give Job justice before his own physical eyes, either now or in the resurrection. Because he will be vindicated. He will have the victory over his enemies. God will give him the justice he could not find, because his Redeemer lives!

And Christians, if Job could find such hope in knowing that God would give him justice, how much more will you find hope, knowing that God is your hope in the midst of every trial? God is the one who will give you comfort in the midst of every grief. We know this because Jesus lives! Because he is alive! He has overcome the grave. He has overcome all of these things. We know that God will give us the victory, because that victory belongs to Jesus today. Because he lives, Christians, whatever you have lost you will get back again, far greater than you can even imagine, because Jesus is our great treasure. Jesus is our great reward. Because Jesus lives, whatever grief you may be going through, Jesus himself will wipe away every tear with his own physical hand. Because Jesus lives, he will give you the justice that you cannot find. He will take care of every trouble that causes you grief now, because he has the victory over all things. Because Jesus lives, we can face the grave and laugh at it! Have extreme joy even in the face of death. Because what can death do to us who belong to Jesus, to the one who has overcome death, to the one who will raise us up again? Because Jesus lives, Christians, you have hope in the midst of every trouble, hope in the midst of anything that this life can throw at you.

So rejoice this day! Find that Easter joy which is yours now and forever. Face your troubles as Job did. Face your troubles as Christians, knowing that we have hope in the face of all of them. Jesus lives! And because he lives, you have a tomorrow. Because he lives, you can face all things. Because he lives, we have the victory now and forever. So rejoice! Because your Redeemer lives, now and forever.

Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, we give you thanks on this Easter day for the victory won by your Son Jesus Christ. Help us always to turn to him, knowing that in him we have victory and through him we have hope, knowing that he is the resurrection and the life who stands victorious over death and the grave! Through his Almighty name we pray. Amen.