

## “Hope When You’re At The End Of Your Rope”

### Job 19

#### Sermon Series: “Trials”

**Introduction:** Most people would agree that we live in a troubled world. Our country, and really the whole world, is still feeling the aftershocks of 9/11 and the continuing war on terrorism. We appear to perpetually be on the brink of a full-scale war in the Middle East. Some people in our nation, and many people around the world, are suffering from economic difficulties. There are diseases, weather difficulties, crime and many other problems abounding in the world.

Many individuals are also suffering on a personal level because all of us have problems at different times and to different degrees. It can be the death of a loved one, an illness in the family, a difficult work situation, a troubled marriage, rebellious children, financial difficulties, or one of a myriad of other problems that could be named.

On the other hand, some people have a blessed, relatively problem free life and seem to have everything that money can buy. Yet, they are empty, miserable, and often hopeless. How can that be explained?

Hope is a confident expectation. It is very difficult to live without hope. Proverbs 13:12a says, “Hope deferred makes the heart sick.” But, how can we have hope in the midst of all of these problems and trials? What can keep us going now and give us something to look forward to in the future? What gives life meaning when we feel empty on the inside? How can we find hope when we are at the end of our rope?

Job was a man who trusted God but still went through an incredible amount of suffering. He was in great despair, and his friends made things worse when they tried to comfort him. However, he had an unshakeable conviction that gave him hope in his darkest days, and I believe we can also have hope when we’re at the end of our rope if we will live our lives based on this conviction as well.

**Conviction: Real, lasting hope cannot be found in circumstances but only in Jesus Christ.**

#### Why?

**1. Jesus is our Redeemer (v. 25a).** The primary meaning of the word, “redeem,” is to “repurchase” or “deliver from bondage by paying a ransom.” For us, it means that Christ:

**A. Identifies with us (Hebrews 2:14-18, 4:14-16).**

Hebrews 2:17a says, “Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren.”

**B. Vindicates us.** 1 John 2:1b says, “And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

**C. Delivers us from the bondage of sin.** Hebrews 9:12 says that Christ “obtained eternal redemption.” Ephesians 1:7 says that we have “redemption through His {Christ’s} blood.” Galatians 3:13 says, “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree’).”

**2. Jesus is alive through the resurrection and His resurrection guarantees our resurrection (v. 25-26) [1 Corinthians 15:1-34].**

This is the ultimate basis for all of our hope. If Jesus is alive, we have eternal hope. If Jesus is not alive, we have no reason to hope ultimately because this life is all there is.

**3. Jesus is victorious (v. 25b).** Verse 25b says, “And He shall stand at last on the earth.” Jesus will stand when everything else falls around us. He will stand victorious over His enemies at the end, and the good news is that we will stand in victory with Him if we trust Him.

**4. Jesus will bring us eternally into the very presence of God (v. 26-27) [Psalm 16:11, Revelation 7:9-17].** We may have terrible circumstances on the earth, but through Jesus, we can live in the perfect paradise of heaven forever. That gives us eternal hope.