

# Gospel Doctrine Lesson 32 – “I Know That My Redeemer Liveth”

(Job 1–2; Job 13; Job 19; Job 27; Job 42)

## 1. Job is sorely tested.– (Job 1,2,4,7,9,11,23,29,30,31)

**Personal righteousness will not protect us from trials and tribulations. Look at Job’s excellent qualities:**

- He was perfect, upright, feared God, and avoided evil (1:1)
- He instructed many and strengthened weak hands (4:3)
- He supported those who were falling and strengthened the feeble knees (4:4)
- He walked in the Lord’s ways (23:10)
- He did not turn away from the commandments (23:11)
- He loved the Lord’s words more than food (23:12)
- He delivered the poor, cared for the orphans, and helped those whom no one else would help (29:12)
- He gave the widow cause to sing with joy (29:13)
- He was eyes to the blind and the feet to the lame (29:15)
- He was father to the poor (29:16)
- He searched for people in need of his assistance (29:16)
- He never found joy in the suffering of his enemies (31:29)
- He never wished evil on his enemies (31:30)
- He opened his home to strangers (31:32)
- He did not try to hide his sins (31:33)
- He would not follow a multitude to do evil and refused to be silent because of the disapproval of others (31:34)

### **Job’s Trials**

1. Loss of property: oxen, asses, sheep, camels, servants
2. Loss of his family: all ten of his children
3. Loss of health: boils, severe disfigurement, flesh clothed with worms, skin black and bones burned with heat
4. Loss of sleep: nightmares and discomfort plagued Job
5. Loss of respect from the public who knew him
6. Loss of friends and family support
7. Loss of connection to the Lord; Job received no answers or directions from the Lord
8. Loss of desire to live; Job wished he had never been born
9. Loss of correct interpretations of his situation by his friends; they have mistaken conclusions about his suffering
  - ELIPHAZ: “They that plow iniquity and sow wickedness reap the same.” (Job 4:7-9)
  - BILDAD: “If thou were pure and upright, surely now he would awake for thee and make the habitation of thy righteousness prosperous (Job 8:6)
  - ZOPHAR: “Oh that God would speak and open his lips against thee, and that he would shew thee the secrets of wisdom.” (Job 11:3-6)

**There is a lesson here for us as well. When trials come, and they will, we must not ask the wrong questions.**

**Richard G. Scott:** “When you face adversity, you can be led to ask many questions. Some serve a useful purpose; others do not. To ask, Why does this have to happen to me? Why do I have to suffer this, now? What have I done to cause this? will lead you into blind alleys. It really does no good to ask questions that reflect opposition to the will of God. Rather ask, What am I to do? What am I to learn from this experience? What am I to change? Whom am I to help? How can I remember my many blessings in times of trial? **Willing sacrifice of deeply held personal desires in favor of the will of God is very hard to do. Yet, when you pray with real conviction, “Please let me know Thy will” and “May Thy will be done,” you are in the strongest position to receive the maximum help from your loving Father**” (“Trust in the Lord,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 17).

## 3. Job offers us three keys for righteousness in the midst of suffering. – (Job 13,19,27)

Job kept his covenants in spite of his pain and his lack of understanding, and he tells us how he did it. Three great passages show us how to keep our covenants and God’s commandments when our lives are collapsing around us. The three things that any person must know if he is to have faith in the Lord are all reflected in Job’s life.

### **#1. JOB’S TESTIMONY OF THE LORD’S EXISTENCE**

**Job 19:25-26:** For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

“I know that my Redeemer lives and no matter what happens to this body (even if it is eaten by worms), I will see Him, in my flesh, for myself.”

## #2. JOB'S TRUST IN GOD BECAUSE HE KNEW GOD

**Job 13:15:** Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him.

"I know God loves me more than I love myself. I trust that whatever He does to me is better than anything I could ever do for myself."

## #3. THE COURSE IN JOB'S LIFE IS PLEASING TO THE LORD AND FULL OF INTEGRITY

**Job 27:5-6:** ...till I die I will not remove mine integrity from me. My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go. "I made my covenants with my eyes wide open, and they were not conditional. I will keep them regardless of the cost."

**Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin:** "*integrity* is always doing what is right and good, regardless of the immediate consequences. It means being righteous from the very depth of our soul, not only in our actions but, more important, in our thoughts and in our hearts. Personal integrity implies such trustworthiness and incorruptibility that we are incapable of being false to a trust or covenant" (Conference Report, Apr. 1990, 38; or *Ensign*, May 1990, 30).

## 4. After Job has faithfully endured his trials, the Lord blesses him. – (Job 38,42)

**President Spencer W. Kimball:** "Being human, we would expel from our lives physical pain and mental anguish and assure ourselves of continual ease and comfort, but **if we were to close the doors upon such sorrow and distress, we might be excluding our greatest friends and benefactors.** Suffering can make saints of people as they learn patience, long-suffering and self-mastery. **The sufferings of our Savior were part of his education**" (*Teachings of S. W. Kimball*, 168).

**Elder Orson F. Whitney:** "No pain that we suffer, no trial that we experience is wasted. It ministers to our education, to the development of such qualities as patience, faith, fortitude and humility. All that we suffer and all that we endure, especially when we endure it patiently, builds up our characters, purifies our hearts, expands our souls, and makes us more tender and charitable, more worthy to be called the children of God ... and it is through sorrow and suffering, toil and tribulation, that we gain the education that we come here to acquire and which will make us more like our Father and Mother in heaven" (quoted in Spencer W. Kimball, *Faith Precedes the Miracle*, 98).

**President Spencer W. Kimball:** "Is there not wisdom in his giving us trials that we might rise above them, responsibilities that we might achieve, work to harden our muscles, sorrows to try our souls? Are we not exposed to temptations to test our strength, sickness that we might learn patience, death that we might be immortalized and glorified?"  
"If all the sick for whom we pray were healed, if all the righteous were protected and the wicked destroyed, the whole program of the Father would be annulled and the basic principle of the gospel, free agency, would be ended. **No man would have to live by faith.**"  
"If joy and peace and rewards were instantaneously given the doer of good, there could be no evil—all would do good but not because of the rightness of doing good. **There would be no test of strength, no development of character, no growth of powers, no free agency, only satanic controls.**" (*Faith Precedes The Miracle*, 97).

**Joseph Smith:** "An actual knowledge to any person, that the course of life which he pursues is according to the will of God, is essentially necessary to enable him to have that confidence in God without which no person can obtain eternal life...."

"Let us here observe, that **a religion that does not require the sacrifice of all things never has power sufficient to produce the faith necessary unto life and salvation;** for, from the first existence of man, the faith necessary unto the enjoyment of life and salvation never could be obtained **without the sacrifice of all earthly things.** It was through this sacrifice, and this only, that God has ordained that men should enjoy eternal life; and it is through the medium of the sacrifice of all earthly things that men do actually know that they are doing the things that are well pleasing in the sight of God. When a man has offered in sacrifice all that he has for the truth's sake, not even withholding his life, and believing before God that he has been called to make this sacrifice because he seeks to do his will, **he does know,** most assuredly, that God does and will accept his sacrifice and offering, and that he has not, nor will not seek his face in vain. Under these circumstances, then, he can obtain the faith necessary for him to lay hold on eternal life.

"**Those, then, who make the sacrifice, will have the testimony that their course is pleasing in the sight of God:** and those who have this testimony will have faith to lay hold on eternal life, and will be enabled, through faith, to endure unto the end, and receive the crown that is laid up for them that love the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. . . ." (*Lectures on Faith*, N. B. Lundwall, Salt Lake City, Utah, 57–59).

**Clayton M. Christensen:** "It's easier to hold to your principles 100% of the time than it is to hold to them 98% of the time. If you give in to "just this once," you'll regret where you end up. You've got to define for yourself what you stand for and draw the line in a safe place" ("How Will You Measure Your Life?" *Harvard Business Review*, Aug. 2010).