

Answers to the Big Questions of Life from Genesis & Job, Part Two

Your Notes

In this and the next lesson, we'll primarily look at how Job answers our BIG Questions of Life, along with supporting material from Genesis.

In review, What are the Big, Foundational Questions of Life I'm referring to?

1. How did we get here?
2. What went wrong?
 - a. *Sub question: Who is Satan and what power does he have?*
3. Is there life after death?
4. What about people who have never heard of Jesus?
5. Why do innocent people suffer?
6. How can we help people who are suffering?

We will cover the first three in this lesson and then the next three in the next.

Importance of Answering these questions

- Though we many not consciously think of these questions, the answers to them undergird much of our behavior.
- Sadly, for most people this is unthinking and can have disastrous consequences.
- For example, in response to the first question, "How did we get here?" if we don't believe we have a loving Creator who made us with a plan and purpose,
- We will spend our lives either frantically working to be all we think we want to be, often to find out that what we worked so hard for wasn't worth it.
- As someone said, "I worked so hard to climb the ladder to what I thought was success in life, only to find out when I reached the top, it was propped against the wrong wall."
- Job will help us find the right wall, the right purpose to work for and so let's get started.....

Overview of Job

- The book opens describing Job as God's ideal man.
- Satan appears before God and challenges God that Job only serves him because God blesses him.
- To see if that is true, God allows Satan to harm Job and he loses wealth, family, and finally his health.
- Three friends (and a fourth later) come to comfort Job, but instead, accuse, and repeat false beliefs about God.
- Job consistently defends himself and demands a defense hearing before God. God responds and shows his power.
- **Important to note—God never answers Job's questions.**
- Job repents and is restored.
- And along the way, we find answers, starting with.....

Question #1

How did we get here? Answered in both Genesis & Job

- **"In the beginning God"** is how Genesis starts, and Genesis continues with a record of God's creation of all things.
- God as Creator is confirmed in Job when God confronts him and begins by establishing who He, God is, on the basis of creation, when He says—
- *Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me, if you*

know so much. Do you know how its dimensions were determined, and who did the surveying? What supports its foundations, and who laid its cornerstone as the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy? (Job 38:4-7)

This reality that God created us is THE foundation for His claims on us

- And it is the answer to our questions for meaning and fulfillment in life.
- The rest of the Bible affirms God's creation as in Ps. 100:3 where it says: *"He made us..."*
- And in Acts 17:28, where it says, *"In him we live and move and have our being."*
- Finally in Rev. 4:11 *You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things and by your will they were created and have their being.*
- **There is No such things as a "self-made man or woman."**
- Humanity is not the result of time plus chance.

Not being self-made is a good thing because we know so little

- About the future, past, what is really going on in the events and people around us, how our actions will affect others, and much more.
- But God knows what is BEST for us, He sees all the problems, the roadblocks, the consequences.
- He not only keeps us ultimately safe, and only sends trials for a purpose but He designed our lives for meaning and purpose.
- We sometime trivialize the description of the Bible as the owner's manual and for the best functioning of life we tell people to "read the directions" **but it is so true.** We won't know God's assurances if we don't know what the Bible says.
- C.S. Lewis put it this way *"God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing."*

Question #2 What went wrong?

Genesis tells us that part of the story, Job expands it

- In Genesis 3, an antagonist enters the story—Satan, first introduced as "the serpent."
- God gave humanity only ONE negative command—
- *"Don't eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil."*
- But the antagonist, Satan, created doubt about God's goodness and offered an alternative to trusting God— "wisdom" rather than relationship.
- Genesis tells us Adam and Eve chose the alternative—and we call their response "the Fall."

In the story line of the Bible

- The Fall is the conflict that initiates all the following actions of the Bible.
- Everything changes with this event.
- Immediately after the Fall, God promises a Savior and though we don't know the entire story at this time, the actions of that promised Savior would reverse Paradise lost with Paradise regained—but that is a long time from now...
- As we start the story, let's look more closely at the antagonist, at Satan so we can understand his tactics better because unfortunately he is part of many Bible stories and our stories.

Other scriptures to understand Satan more fully

- The book of Isaiah tells us that Satan was the highest of created beings, an

angel who once held a place of honor before God, but he rebelled, and was removed from his place, here is a brief description of what happened—

- ***How art thou fallen from heaven,
O Lucifer, son of the morning!
how art thou cut down to the ground,
which didst weaken the nations!
For thou hast said in thine heart,
I will ascend into heaven,
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God:
I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation,
in the sides of the north:
I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;
I will be like the most High. Isaiah 14:12-14***
- We don't know all the details, but from the little we have been told, his pride was extraordinary and which is why, whenever anyone seeks to put themselves above others, in things large and small, it is never of God, but an imitation of Satan.

Other scriptures to understand Satan more fully

- Read Ezek. 28—for more pictures of his fall when you have time, again though an emphasis on pride, power, gasping for what was not his filled him, God did not allow that, and it caused his fall.
- We wish we knew more about this extraordinary back story—what we do know is clothed in symbolic language and there is much we do not understand.
- Yet, God has told us all we need to know.
- Satan's past does not concern us as much as what he is doing now, and the book of Job gives us important insight to his current actions and limitations.
- Though we don't want to be afraid of him or thinking about him too much, we need to keep in mind that we have an active enemy as we read through the Bible and in our daily lives.

What Job shows us about Satan

- Satan has access to God.
- He ***is allowed*** to initiate:
 - Natural disasters
 - Personal tragedies
 - Crime and death
 - Sickness
- All of these, he did to Job.
- No where in the Bible are we given specifics about his ability to do them or how he does what he does.
- ***However, we do know that when and if they happen, they are ALL UNDER God's control and limitations.***
- Not only do we see God's control and limits on Satan's power in Job but also in the New Testament when Jesus stills the storm. Matt. 8:23–27.

More about how Satan's power is limited

- Clearly in Job, Satan is subordinate to God—no dualism in the Bible—God and Satan are not two equal powers engaged in a cosmic battle.
- In Job 1 Satan appears before God in an obvious place of submission.
- God questions him, limits him—again, we see this as a foundational lesson in Job.

- Satan is God’s creation, not eternal, not all powerful, not all-knowing. He cannot read your thoughts, though he can plant thoughts in your mind.
- He does not know the future for certain.
- He is also not omni-present; he can’t be everywhere at one time, though he has legions of demonic powers.
- Satan’s subordinate place is an assurance also repeated in the New Testament **“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them [Satan and his influence]: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world” (1 John 4:4).**

Though limited, Satan can still cause a lot of trouble

- Satan is not at all original in his strategies.
- What he used then to tempt Adam and Eve, he continues to use now.
- **The simple statement in Gen. 3:1 Did God really say?.....Satan continues to use again and again and again.**
- Satan always begins with questioning if God really said something, and it then progresses to suggesting an alternative that sounds good but is ultimately destructive.
- To stand up against that **you need to know what God’s Word truly says**, what He truly wants you to do.
- It is ONLY through God’s Word that you will know for certain what God wants because our world, our culture, our values today seem so pleasing in many ways, as the fruit did to Eve, but they are ultimately destructive.

Additionally, what we see about Satan in Job

- Satan is restless, he wanders the earth, and he is an accuser of God’s people—then and now.
- In Job 1:7 **“The Lord said to Satan, “Where have you come from?” Satan answered the Lord, ‘From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it.’”**
- In the New Testament, we see this hasn’t changed, **“Be careful—watch out for attacks from Satan, your great enemy. He prowls around like a hungry, roaring lion, looking for some victim to tear apart” (1 Peter 5:8 TLB).**

In that wandering, he accuses God’s people

- Job 8, when God pointed out the blameless life of Job, and Satan responded, **“Does Job fear God for nothing?”**
- Satan will attempt to twist every good thing in our lives (and the lives of others) to something evil.
- That chatter in your head constantly telling you what a mess you are is seldom from God.
- God’s voice of conviction gives you a way to do better; Satan simply pounds you—don’t listen to him.
- When accusations happen, evaluate your life in light of God’s Word, confess your sin if necessary, and press ahead assured of God’s love and forgiveness.

Satan not only tempts us to beat up on ourselves

- He wants us to do the same to others.
- **This is why slander, gossip, thinking evil of our brothers and sisters, of anyone is SO wrong—we are listening to Satan, we are doing Satan’s work.**
- We never know what is truly going on in another’s life. Grant them the

grace you receive from God and want for yourself.

- Don't gossip; grant grace. Don't accuse; pray.
- ***Don't do Satan's work in the lives of others!***

Whenever a trial comes, take time to consider....

- There is often more going on that we are not aware of—
- We are reminded *"For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against persons without bodies—the evil rulers of the unseen world, those mighty satanic beings and great evil princes of darkness who rule this world; and against huge numbers of wicked spirits in the spirit world"*(Eph. 6:12,TLB)
- What happened to Job, that he was the object of this divine and Satanic attention is not presented as a one-time event.
- You never know what God might be doing, how your life might be on display or involved in a trial for others.
- Ask for discernment, but don't be overly paranoid.
- Remember we've won already, though it might not seem like it.

We are like the resistance fighters in WW2 in France

- D-day was May 7, 1944 but Paris was not liberated until August 25, 1944.
- The war was effectively won after D-day, but for the weeks until the liberation of Paris, the resistance fighters in the city had to hang on in the face of bitter, deadly struggles.
- C.S. Lewis describes our situation in this way, *"Enemy-occupied territory—that is what this world is. Christianity is the story of how the rightful king has landed, you might say landed in disguise and is calling us all to take part in a great campaign of sabotage."*
- Don't be a collaborator, going along with the powers currently in charge—it goes well for collaborators when a war is raging.
- But the war will be over....

Satan's interference with our world is significant, but it will not last forever

- Jesus rose from the dead, defeating Satan, and Satan's interference with God's people will also someday come to an end and when Satan will be thrown in the Lake of Fire.
- The accusing chatter in our minds will cease, the interference in our lives and world will be over, as this cry of victory in Revelation reminds us—
- *Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down (Revelation 12:10).*
- Hopeful words, but who will be around to see that?
- Which leads to Question #3.....

Question # 3

Is There Life after Death?

- The answer is incredibly important to understand.
- Because as the Apostle Paul told us, *"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable"* (1 Cor. 15:19).
- Of the many Big Questions of Life Job answers, the question of *Is There Life after Death?* is definitely the most important because it literally puts all else that happens to us into proper perspective.
- If there is no life after death, no salvation from the punishment of death, there is no point to the rest of the Bible.

- But there is salvation from death, there is a Savior who conquered death and the effects of his victory reaches back to the earliest days of humanity .
- Our God is an eternal God, and He did not create throw-away creatures. He made us to walk with Him forever.
- And Job affirms this truth.

Job provides an early and definitive answer to this question

- Job 14:14-15 affirms physical, bodily resurrection, I'll read it and then I will take a closer look at the Hebrew words that are key to understanding this verse and assure us of physical life after death:
- ¹⁴ *If someone dies, will they live again?
All the days of my hard service
I will wait for my renewal . (**chaliyphah—a change of garments, a renewal**) to come¹⁵ You will call and I will answer you;
you will long for the creature your hands have made.*
- On v.14— “chaliyphah” is similar to the Apostle Paul taking about his earthly tent being exchanged for a heavenly one. 2 Cor 5:1
- Job prefigures the same idea, that death is like a change of garments, an outer tent, with a continuing person inside, as talks about renewal and answering God when He calls him to Himself.
- **And then.....**

Of incredible significance

- *Job: 19: 25 I know that my redeemer lives,
and that in the end he will stand on the earth.
²⁶ And after my skin (**Hebrew word, “ore” tangible, physical skin; the body, life**) has been destroyed,
yet in my flesh (**Hebrew word “basar” another work for skin, flesh, body**)
I will see God;
²⁷ I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another.
How my heart yearns within me!*
- The Hebrew words mean physical skin in this life; and physical flesh in the next—different words with the SAME meaning, both in this life and the next.
- Job fully expected and believed he would SEE God with physical eyes in a physical body after his mortal death.
- Resurrection to the Christian is tangible; solid; a renewal into what we were created to experience.

Even early in his struggles, Job knew

- As the passage we just discussed shows, Job knew that his earthly pain was not all there was to his story.
- There are sadly many, including some in the church and some who teach the Bible who will say that “in the Old Testament there was no clear belief of life after death.”
- **That is simply not true** as this passage in Job, the earliest book in the Bible, and many others show.
- I also have a revised and complete lesson on this topic *Is There Life after Death?* on www.Bible805.com where I go through additional Old Testament passages that affirm the truth of life after death, plus a shorter lesson that critiques those who deny it. Please see the podcasts, videos, and printed materials on this topic—again, the links for it are at www.Bible805.com

One more hopeful reminder

- As one writer said, if we truly believe in the promised joy of a fulfilling, meaningful eternity spent with those we love and a God who loves us, even the most horrible experiences of life will seem like one night spent in a bad hotel.
- You might be in that horrid, bad hotel now, but be assured that as the book of Job shows us and the rest of the Bible affirms, joy will come—perhaps not in this life, but it will come, and it will last forever.

What's next?

- I pray that what we've covered today are comforting truths to those who know Jesus, yet often the answers to our questions today bring up more questions we'll continue to cover in ***Genesis & Job, Answers to the Big Questions of Life, part three*** and these are:
 - **#4 What about people who have never heard of Jesus?**
 - **#5 Why do innocent people suffer?**
 - **#6 How can we help people who are suffering?**
- Join me as I help you lay a solid foundation for your life as The Big Questions covered in this lesson and the next will come up again and again in our lives and those of the people we care about. The Bible has answers and that's what these lessons assure us of.
- And until our next lesson, be encouraged with these final words from Job: ***I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God.***
Job 19:25-27

DISCUSSION GUIDE for Genesis & Job, Answers to the Big Questions of Life, Part Two

Key Verse

“I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God.” — Job 19:25–26

Brief Lesson Summary

This lesson continues our study of the Big Questions of Life by examining answers found in Genesis and Job. We learn that God is our Creator and therefore the foundation for our purpose and meaning in life. We also gain a clearer understanding of Satan—his origin, limitations, and methods of deception. Finally, Job provides one of the Bible’s earliest and clearest affirmations of life after death and bodily resurrection, giving believers hope that extends beyond this life. Through Job’s experiences, we are reminded that God remains sovereign, even in suffering, and that our ultimate future is secure in Him.

Ice-breaker Question

What is one question about life, suffering, or eternity that you have wrestled with at some point in your life?

Discussion Questions for a Group; Journal Questions for Individual Study

1. Why is it important to understand that God is our Creator and that we are not 'self-made' people?
2. How have you seen the benefits of trusting God even when you did not understand what He was doing?
3. What did you learn about Satan’s character, strategies, and limitations?
4. In what ways do you see Satan’s question 'Did God really say?' being used today?

5. How does Job's confidence that he would see God after death encourage you personally?

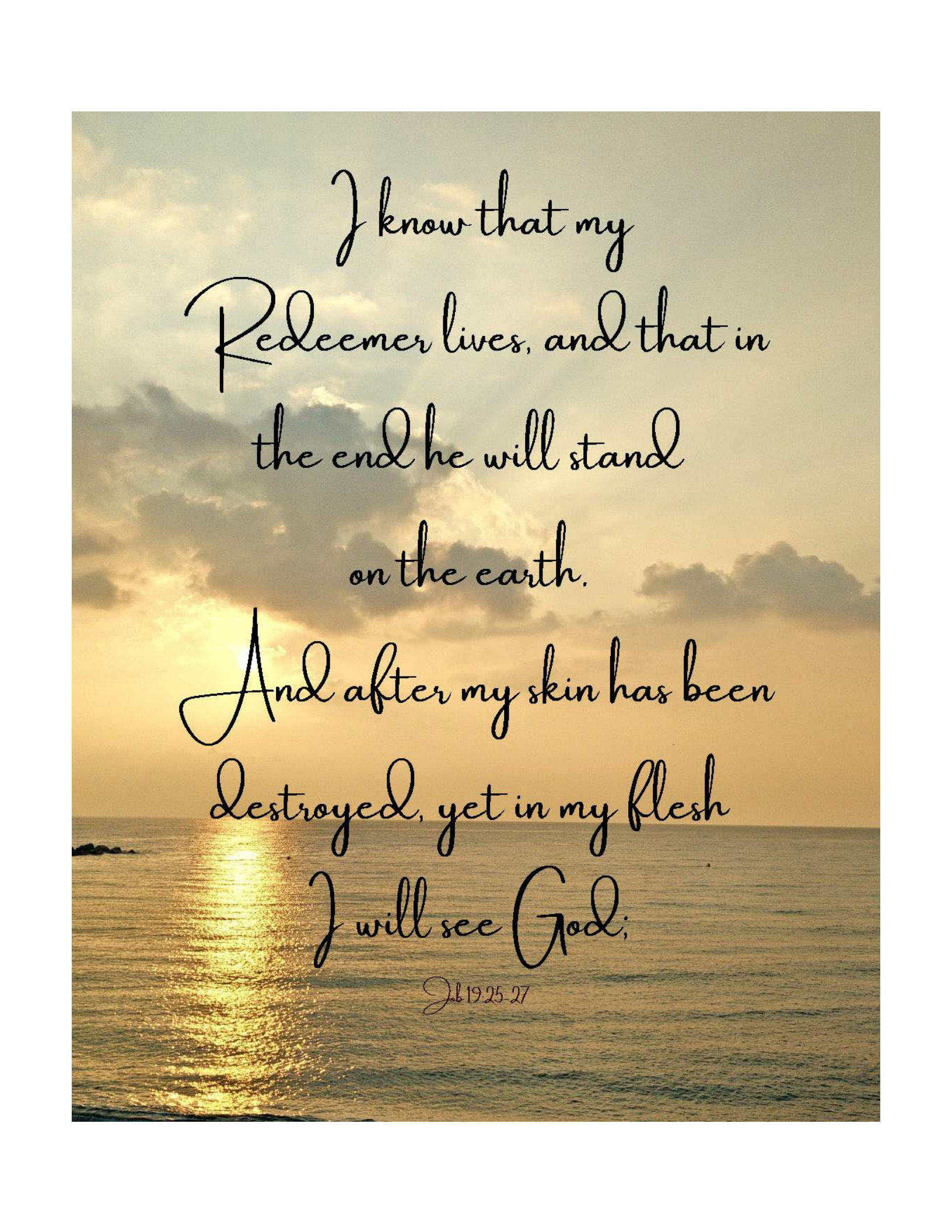
6. How does the illustration of resistance fighters help you understand the Christian life?

Life Application Suggestions, consider and respond

1. Read Job 38–42 and reflect on God's greatness.
2. Surrender an area where you have been questioning God's wisdom.
3. Choose grace and prayer instead of criticism or gossip.
4. Read Job 19:25–27 during the week and thank God for eternal life.

Prayer Focus

Thank God for creating you with purpose and meaning. Ask Him for wisdom to recognize and resist Satan's deceptions. Pray for confidence in God's sovereignty during difficult circumstances and for a deeper assurance of the hope of resurrection and eternal life through Jesus Christ.



I know that my
Redeemer lives, and that in
the end he will stand
on the earth.

And after my skin has been
destroyed, yet in my flesh
I will see God;

Job 19:25-27

And I will dwell
in the house
of the Lord
forever.



Ps. 23:6