

Resurrection Reality

- Christ is risen! **He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**
- Indeed, he is! This is day we gather at tomb, poke head in tomb, maybe even crawl into tomb of J. And what do we find? Nthng! Our friend: gone; tomb: empty. And not bec cross didn't actly kill him, so able escape. Prepostrs – Rom centrs knew how kill/crimnl & seal/tomb. And not bec Jwsh ldrs sntchd bdy. Ludicrs – they wantd J dead/buried, & got what wantd (or so thght). And not bec discs came, stole body. Bonkers – those guys too scared even stnd by J, let alone brk into tomb guardd by armd miltry persnln. No, today, on this ES, we & all faithful gather at tomb, with the bright sunlight/dawn flooding empty cavity in front/us; and all our sadness/concerns evaprt like morn mist, bec we know/bel that: Christ is risen! **He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**
- The alleluia expresses our joy; the indeed expresses our convctn. The res a reality! It's not fable; fake news; sentmntlty (like, whnvr we think re J, it's like he's alive in hrts). No, our convctn stands on fact/reality: that on that first ES morn, the dead bdy/J came alive! J drew breath, opened eyes, stretched arms, stood on feet, came back to life. This is res reality!
- And if Job were here today, he'd be first respnd, "He: risen indeed! All!" **Vs. 23-27.** Can you hear Job's convctn in the res reality? "**I know Rdmr lives; he will stnd earth; in my flesh I will see God.**" What a faith! And where did that faith come fr? Do you remem story/Job? Do you remem what hapnd to this guy? In terrbl seqnc/catstrphs Job loses lvstck, srvnts, chldrn – all 10 chldrn tragcly die when bldng collpss on them. And if that not engh, Job also devlps horribl skin disease, w/painful soars covering whole bdy. Over course/bk, Job's wife: curse God & die. Friends come to comfort him but end up just accusing him. Job's in really rough shape! Feels like God's turned back/him; that's Job's reality.
- So when: Job's reality start look like your reality? I doubt any us here today've ever had it quite as bad as Job, w/all these tragds compndng all at once. But I know, as I look out at this ch full/ppl on this happy ES, that many/you: silently suffrng w/very real pain (just like Job). Some/you: buried fam mems, maybe even chlrm (""); struggle in marg (""); lost your wlth, job, livelihd, proprty (""); had frnds betray (""); painfl, debilitng mentl or physcl hlth strggls (""). So you get it. You know what like: suffer; feel like God's turnd back/you. You can relate to Job, even if only partially. That's: painful reality your life.
- But w/remrkbl confdnc/faith in Lord, Job: able look beynd awful reality his life to anthr reality, that he's absltly certain re. In his emotnl/physcl agony, Job cries out: **vs. 25a.** 2k yrs before J: born & died & rose, Job looks into future & sees J risen fr dead. Job calls him "**my Rdmr.**" In OT, a rdmr (in Heb, goel): smone who'd pay large sum/\$ to set you free fr a financel burden. So, if you had large mortgage & fell into pvrtty, couldn't pay it, the person who'd step in, pay off your mortg, set you free fr debt, called rdmr. Or, if enslaved by slave owner, the person who'd step in, pay price for your freedom, called rdmr. A rdmr/goel was usually fam mem, kinsman. But very often in OT, Lord himself: called our Rdmr. **Ps 19: "May these wrd/mth & this mdtm/hrt be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock/Rdmr" (14).** **Jer 50: "[Our] Rdmr is strong; Lord Almgthy is his name" (34).** And Isa 43: "**But now, this is what Lord says... 'Do not fear, for I have rdmd you; summnd you by name; mine'" (1).** And when you get to NT, words like "rdm, rdmr, rdmpnt" point to J – to his sacrfc/cross, where paid price, of own bld, to set us free, fr sin, Stn, hell. So, fr NT, **Gal 3: "Xp rdmd us fr curse/law by becoming curse for us" (13).** **1 Pt 1: "You know: not w/prshbl thngs such as slvr/gld that you were rdmd...but w/prcs bld of Xp" (18-19).** **Eph 1: "In [Xp] we have rdmtm thru his bld" (7).** And Rev 1: "**To him who loves us & has freed us fr our sins by his bld" (5).** All these psgs are re J giving life, shedding bld, to pay price for our salvtn, as our Rdmr. J is our Rdmr.
- And was Job's Rdmr, too. Job: **vs. 25a.** J: alive, forvr! And Job didn't know any details of how that'd wrk. Didn't know re: virgin birth, Magi, mrcls, prbbs, discs, or way J'd die on cross. He didn't even know his name'd be J. But what Job did know: he had a living Rdmr! And that is what we know/bel, too! Today we celebrate the res reality that our Rdmr, CJ, died & rose & and now lives forever!

- And not only that; but reality of J's res also means that smday our risen Rdmr will return & raise us fr dead, as well. Listen to Job's convctn in that reality: **vs. 25ab...that in the end** (or as KJV: **at the later day** – IOW, on Last Day, when J returns at end/wrld) – **vs. 25c-27a**. That: our res reality.
- But, res reality also of course implies anthr reality – dth reality. I'm going tell you this strght up, w/o sugar-coatng one bit: you going die. Smday – maybe decades/days fr now; there's no way for you know for sure – but what you can/must know: smday you going die. Your bdy'll stop functng; skin destrdy; flesh return dust. So unless J returns during your lifetime, that is your dth reality.
- Interstng word here; Job: **vs. 25**; litrly in Heb, **dust**. It's same Heb word for dust used: when Adam was creatd; **"The Lord God formed a man fr dust/grnd"** (Gen 2:7); after fall into sin, when Stn cursd; **"You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all/day/life"** (Gen 3:14); and, when A&E cursd; **"For dust: are/return"** (Gen 3:19). Now, you remem those wrds. I spoke those wrds over you on AW, as I smeared dust/ashes on your forehead/hand, to remind you of reality that you're going die. Let me tell you re that reality. Earlier this month we buried my fr-in-law, Gary Welfel – father/wife, grfr/chldrn. Died of pancrtc cancer. After his funrl, we literly poured his ashes/dust into grnd; we saw his dust return to dust. In fact, I'm one: dug hole for ashes; then we all took turns shoveling dirt into hole to cover those ashes – that was 3 wks ago today. Make no mistake: dth is reality; my skin being destrdy is reality.
- However, it's not final reality. No, res is final reality. **Vs. 25**, on dust, like a champion standing on top of his conqrd foe; J'll stand victrsly on dust of this earth and dust of our dth. **Vs. 26** (my resrctd flesh); **vs. 27a** (w/my resrctd eyes, in my resrctd body); **"I, and not anthr"** – which does not mean, of course, that no one else besides me'll be raised. Actly, word for **anthr** is litrly wrd **stranger**. So what Job is really saying: **"I myself, w/my own eyes, will see him, and not a stranger."** When I die & open eyes, I will not see: Satan; hell; my sinful past; some god I've never heard of or belvd in; stranger. No, I will see J. When you die & open eyes, you: see J. When your Xian fam mem dies & opens eyes, they: see J.
- Does that make your hrt yearn w/in you? Does that stngthn your faith in reality of Xp's res & your res? It did for Job. **Vs. 23-24**. Well, guess what, Job – they are! Your words are forever inscribed in sacred Scripture; they are immortlzd in hymn & in song; and they are engraved on our hrts forever – bec just like you, Job, we also confess: **vs. 25-27**. That is the res reality and our Easter confidnc, that: Christ is risen! **He is risen, indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia and amen!**

Job 19:23-27

²³"Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll, ²⁴that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead, or engraved in rock forever! ²⁵I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. ²⁶And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; ²⁷I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!"

resurrection
REALity
