

# Job 6:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Or, Deliver me from the enemy's hand? or, Redeem me from the hand of the mighty?

## Analysis

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Job's rhetorical questions reveal the depth of his desperation and the futility of his friends' counsel. The Hebrew 'patsal' (פָּצַל) for 'deliver' carries the connotation of rescue or snatching away from danger, while 'padah' (פָּדָה) for 'redeem' implies payment of a ransom price. Job is essentially asking his companions: 'Can you actually do anything to help me?' These questions expose the limits of human aid when facing divine sovereignty. Job recognizes that his affliction comes from a 'mighty' one—an implicit acknowledgment that God Himself is the source of his suffering. This verse demonstrates Job's growing awareness that his crisis is fundamentally theological, not merely circumstantial. No human intervention can address what God has ordained, foreshadowing the New Testament truth that only God can redeem from ultimate bondage (Romans 3:24).

## Historical Context

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In ancient Near Eastern culture, wealthy individuals like Job would have had extensive networks of allies and dependents who owed him loyalty. Job's appeal highlights the failure of these human support systems when confronting divine testing. The concept of ransom and redemption was well-established in patriarchal society through kinsman-redeemer practices, making Job's questions particularly poignant—he knows the cultural expectation that friends should 'redeem' one another from distress.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. When have you experienced the limits of human help in your suffering, driving you to depend solely on God?
2. How does Job's recognition that only God can truly deliver shape your understanding of redemption in Christ?
3. What does this verse teach about the proper role of Christian community in times of severe trial?

## Interlinear Text

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תִּפְלֹנִי	עָרֵץ יְמִינִי	עָרֵץ יְמִינִי	עָרֵץ יְמִינִי	עָרֵץ יְמִינִי	עָרֵץ יְמִינִי
Or Deliver	hand	me from the enemy's	hand	of the mighty	or Redeem
H4422	H3027	H6862	H3027	H6184	H6299

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 107:2** (Redemption): Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;

**Psalms 49:15** (Redemption): But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah.

**Job 5:20** (Redemption): In famine he shall redeem thee from death: and in war from the power of the sword.

**Jeremiah 15:21** (Redemption): And I will deliver thee out of the hand of the wicked, and I will redeem thee out of the hand of the terrible.