

## A MAN FROM UZ. JOB 1:1-5. 07/27/25. 01.

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<sup>1</sup> There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name *was* Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil. <sup>2</sup> And seven sons and three daughters were born to him. <sup>3</sup> Also, his possessions were seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and a very large household, so that this man was the greatest of all the ~~people~~ people of the East. <sup>4</sup> And his sons would go and feast *in their* houses, each on his *appointed* day, and would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. <sup>5</sup> So it was, when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings *according to* the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did regularly.

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### 1. Job, a mystery masterpiece

- a. Job has been accepted as divinely inspired from the earliest times, but is unrelated to the covenant of Abraham or history of redemption
  - a1. We know neither the author, nor the date
  - a2. Uz was probably in NW Arabia
- b. Job apparently lived about the time of Abraham
  - a1. The Hebrew is very old, causing a variety of translations to be produced
  - a2. Except for the prologue & epilogue the book is written in ancient Near East poetry style
  - a3. Job's lifespan (140) is same as patriarch's
- c. Jewish tradition has Job being passed on in oral form until Moses wrote it down in present form
- d. Job can be divided in several ways:
  - a1. Prologue (God talks to Satan; trials come)
  - a2. Job's lamentations
  - a3. Dialogue with 3 neighbors
  - a4. Monologue by Elihu
  - a5. Monologue by God
  - a6. Epilogue
- e. Job finds no comfort; only accusers
- f. Job's faith does not waver, but he is confused

- g. The agony of Job is in not knowing why he is afflicted
  - a1. Job does not know about the conversation between God & Satan
  - a2. Job was pious & sought to please God
  - a3. Job never finds out why he suffered

- h. Several themes run through the book
  - a1. Staying faithful even when suffering
  - a2. Severe testing of faith may occur
  - a3. Man's wisdom falls short of divine will

### 2. The man Job

- a. Job is described as a pious man, who was upright and feared God
  - a1. This does not mean that Job was sinless
  - a2. Job humbled himself before God
- b. Job was the greatest man in the East, having 1000's of heads of cattle, camels, sheep, donkeys, as well as a large household of servants
- c. Job had 7 sons & 3 daughters, each taking turns hosting gatherings at their houses
  - a1. After each gathering Job would sacrifice to God on behalf of each child in case any of them had secretly cursed God in their hearts
  - a2. Job was conscience to reverence God

### 3. Themes in the book of Job

- a. The sudden ruin of Job raises questions
  - a1. Why do the righteous suffer? (theodicy)
  - a2. Should not obedience bring prosperity & wellbeing?
  - a3. Should God reveal his purposes to us?
- b. Job's 3 friends respond to Job with worldly wisdom
  - a1. If Job were righteous, he would not suffer
  - a2. Since Job suffered, he must have done evil
  - a3. If Job would repent, God would restore him
  - a4. Job's defense of himself was self-righteous
- c. Job's defense was based on 2 premises:
  - a1. Job had done all he could to please God
  - a2. Job felt he had a right to know why he was suffering so he could correct any flaw
- d. Job tells us that suffering has many causes & God doesn't have to explain himself, but expects faith from us