JOB 1
The Man, His Wealth, His Family & His Plight:
From Riches to Ruin

Introduction:
This chapter is part of the prose prologue (Job 1-2) which describes Job's character, his family and possessions, Satan's accusations and attacks on Job, Job's reactions, and the arrival of his friends are all set before the reader in a swift manner. This rapid-fire narrative style in the prologue quickly gets the reader into Job's agonizing confrontations with his friends and God.

By contrast, the pace in the prose dialogue which follows is slow and unhurried (Job 3:1-42:6).

In this chapter the scene shifts from earth, to heaven and back to earth while we get a glimpse into the activity in the throne room of God in heaven.

Job chapter 1 introduces us to the character of Job, the land he lived in, his family and possessions and his greatness; "this man was the greatest of all the people in the East". We also see Job's love of his family, especially his 10 children on whose behalf he makes sacrifices.

Additionally, Satan is shown to be true to his character which is to throw accusations at the saints of God and question their faith. His modis-operandi has not changed, he still tries to disgrace God, cast aspersions on God's holiness and cast doubt in people's minds about His motives and authority.

We see in this chapter exactly how much material wealth Job loses and also his response to the loss. This and the next chapter basically set the stage for the rest of the story.

vv. 1-3  LAND OF UZ: JOB’S CHARACTER, PROSPERITY & GREATNESS
[1 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. 2 And seven sons and three daughters were born to him. 3 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 of the East.

We are told that Job lived in the land of Uz [not Oz!]. In our introduction we concluded that Uz was probably located somewhere south of Damascus, on the plains between modern Syria and Jordan.

Job is described as a man who was “blameless” and “upright”. Blameless means that Job was “without moral blemish” or “morally whole” to the point that no one could bring a charge of wrong-doing against him and make it “stick”. The fact that Job was upright means that he was “as straight as an arrow” and in this context following God’s moral standards of behavior.

Additionally, in support of this he “feared God” and “shunned evil” which means that he obeyed God, was faithful and avoided those things that were evil; primarily he did not engage in the worship of idols and immorality.

Job was therefore a man of the highest moral and ethical standards, a man full of godliness, honesty and integrity.

Elsewhere in this book we learn that Job was also highly respected (Job 29:7-11), a fair and honest judge (29:7,12-17), a wise counselor (29:21-24), an honest employer (31:13-15, 38-39), hospitable and generous (31:16-21,32).
Thus we are made aware of the fact that Job was a “righteous” man, morally sound and trusted God. This is important to note because it makes what happened to Job even more difficult to understand—he is the last person one would ever think deserved to suffer so terribly.

Job had a large family; 10 children—7 sons and 3 daughters which was considered a sign of divine blessing and a heritage from the LORD. See for example Psalms 127:3-5.

We are told Job was a man of wealth and prominence—“the greatest of all the people of the East” {Job 1:3}. In effect, he was like a king in his day.

And as a king Job was very wealthy as is evident in the abundance of the livestock he owned [not unlike ancient England and early America where one’s wealth was oftentimes measured by the number of pigs they owned].

Additionally, Job probably owned a substantial amount of land because we are told that he was a farmer of crops {Job 31:38-40}.

Job’s wealth made him a well-known and powerful and influential member of his community. In the INTRODUCTION TO JOB we learned that the name “Job” appears in the Berlin Execration Texts\(^1\) as the name of a certain prince in the region of Damascus in the nineteenth century BC which correlates to what we are told about him here.

Refer to the table below for an estimate of the modern day worth of just Job’s livestock.

\[
\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|}
\hline
\text{Livestock} & \text{Quantity} & \text{Price@} & \text{Value} \\
\hline
\text{Sheep} & 7000 & $250.00 & $1,750,000.00 \\
\text{Camel} & 3000 & $10,000.00 & $30,000,000.00 \\
\text{Ox} & 500 & $2,000.00 & $1,000,000.00 \\
\text{Donkey} & 500 & $1,500.00 & $750,000.00 \\
\hline
\end{array}
\]

This totals $33.5 million dollars which doesn’t include the value of Job’s household furnishings, his male and female servants or his crops. Job would have been a multimillionaire by today’s standards.

\[v.\,4-5\,\text{ JOB’S LOVE & CARE OF HIS FAMILY}\]

[4 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. 5 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.]

Job’s sons would host feasts in their respective homes on their “appointed day”. This could either mean their birthdays or simply the times assigned for each of them to host the feast on a rotation basis.

\(^1\) Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research 82 [1941]: 36.
Job was concerned for his children’s salvation and after each feast was over he reminded them they were to live lives set apart and dedicated to God. In doing this, he was testifying to them of the LORD’s sovereignty and their personal accountability to Him.

On those occasions he would rise early [presumably before his children got up] and vicariously sacrifice burnt offerings for each of them individually because he thought they might have sinned knowingly or unknowingly by cursing God in their hearts. This is exactly what the priestly sacrifices under the Law were designed to do—to make an atonement, a covering, for the people’s sins.

The irony of this is that Satan later, on two separate occasions, accuses Job of hypocrisy in his worship of God and tells the LORD “stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!” (Job 1:11; 2:4); which of course Job does not do.

We are not told what the sacrifices consisted of, but probably included both of his sheep and oxen, thus demonstrating that Job was not concerned about the cost involved when it came to protecting his children or teaching them about the serious consequences of sin.

This practice, although meaningful to Job and demonstrating his love for his children, did not accomplish anything personally in each of his children’s lives other than reminding them of the cost involved in covering sin and their accountability to the LORD’s absolute authority. It was something Job did by faith to “cover” his children. The corresponding act today would be to “cover” our children in prayer in the name of Jesus Christ.

Elsewhere in scripture we are told that: “The life of the flesh is in the blood” (Lev. 17:11); “the soul that sins shall die” (Ezek. 18:20), and “the wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23).

However, since the advent of Jesus Christ we have not had to sacrifice animals for the covering of sin because the Lamb of God has once and for all sacrificed Himself, given His life and shed His blood, that we might be made alive spiritually“……but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 6:23).

The point is that each person needs to individually come by faith to be saved and it is not at all clear that Job’s children were saved. Perhaps Job knew that also and is why he offered up these sacrifices because he said that his sons might “have sinned and cursed God in their hearts”.

**vv. 6-8 ➢ A HEAVENLY “PERFORMANCE” REVIEW**

[6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. 7 And the LORD said to Satan, “From where do you come?” So Satan answered the LORD and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.” 8 Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?”]

The scene now shifts from earth, the land of Uz, to Heaven, into the very presence of the LORD! The veil of is pulled back a little and we see angelic beings presenting themselves before the throne of the LORD.
Also, up to this point the word “Elohiym” has been used for God which speaks of Him as Creator and therefore Owner of all things. But now we are introduced to God by the Hebrew word “Yah-veh”, which is His redemptive name—God is also the only Savior. Thus, God is worshipped because He is both Creator and Savior. We will see this more fully in v.20-22.

v.6—note that the “sons of God” [“ben ha-Elohiym”] are described as coming to present themselves before the LORD in Heaven! These are created beings but not of the human race.

The sons of God are mentioned again later in Job where they are described as being present when God created the heavens and earth; prior to the creation of Adam and Eve:

Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding, Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars2 sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?—Job 38:4-7

Evidently, the sons of God are referring to a created order of angelic beings!

As impossible as might seem, and as difficult it is to grasp in our modern society, in Gen. 6:4 some of those in the class of angels referred to as “the sons of God” are associated in producing offspring that are described as “giants” [Heb. Nephilim4 meaning “the fallen ones”]. Here is the reference:

Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. And the LORD said, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years”. There were giants4 on the earth in those days and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown. Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.—Gen. 6:1-6

2 The “stars” here are probably referring to other kinds of angelic beings. See for example Isa.14:13; Dan. 8:10; Rev. 1:20.

3 In the book of Daniel there appears to be another class or order of angelic beings referred to as “the watchers” who are “holy ones”. See Dan. 4:17. In the context of its usage in Daniel, a ‘watcher’ is probably a special class of angelic being who God uses to carry out His will on earth. The Book of Daniel informs us that there are many different classes of angels, all accomplishing God’s special purposes on earth. There are also “fallen angels” which work through human leaders to try and thwart the purposes of the Lord {ref. Dan. 10:13} much like the “sons of God” mentioned here in Job. Nebuchadnezzar recognized this distinction and understood the supernatural aspect of these beings {see Dan. 3:25}.

4 The Nephilim are considered by many to be giant demigods, the unnatural offspring of the “daughters of men” (mortal women) in some kind of cohabitation with the “sons of God” (angels; cf. Gen 6:1-4). This utterly unnatural union, violating God’s created order of being, was such a shocking abnormality and produced such a depraved and sinful society that it necessitated the worldwide judgment of the Flood. Another view of the Nephilim is that they were particularly violent group of men [the name comes from a root word meaning “to fall,” i.e., on other people; strong (“mighty”), and infamous (“men of renown”)] and refer to a group of people who predated the marriages of v.2. This viewpoint is used in reference to intermarriage unions of the godly line of Seth {described in Gen. 4:25-5:32} with the ungodly line of Cain {Gen. 4:1-24}. However, this viewpoint ignores the fact that the “sons of God” are clearly angelic beings who have heavenly access to God which no mortal man can have. This view also contradicts the fact that the “sons of God” did something evil which presumably the descendents of the godly line of Seth would not do.
Several points are to be made. First, at the beginning of the multiplication of mankind on earth, some of the **sons of God** had physical relations with the daughters of men [“took wives for themselves”] causing them to bear **“mighty men who were of old, men of renown”** who are described as **“giants”** [Heb. Nephilim].

Second, some believe these men became **demigods** because they had super-human strength and stories of their exploits may have been handed down through the ages by oral tradition starting with Noah’s family. These stories eventually may have been the inspiration for the legends and exploits of the gods in the Greek and Roman pantheons.

And third, they would all have been destroyed in the Flood.

Note that this interpretation is supported by passages in the New Testament.

“And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”—*Jude 1:6-7*

Note that these angels that “did not keep their proper domain” but left their special dwelling place. They are described in association with Sodom and Gomorrah, specifically in the context of engaging in “sexual immorality” and having “gone after strange [i.e., different] flesh”. This could very well be a reference to the “**sons of God**” that did the same thing in *Genesis 6:1-4* who came to earth to engage in a perverted and unnatural union [“**sexual immorality**”] with human women.

If so, they produced a generation of men so wicked and evil that God had to destroy mankind by destroying the earth and incarcerated these particular fallen angels “**in everlasting chains under darkness**”.

Peter also gives us additional insight as to what

“For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to Tartaros7 and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly.”—*2 Pet. 2:4-6*

---

5 There is another interpretation that the **“sons of God”** are the offspring of the Godly seed through the line of Seth and the **“daughters of men”** are the offspring of the ungodly seed of Cain. The idea being that the Godly and ungodly lines intermarried to produce a corrupt and evil race of giants. However, the two major problems with this explanation are (1) the “sons of God” described in Job are definitely angelic beings and not human and (2) the line of Seth would be the cause of the resulting evil which is self-contradictory.

6 The word “Nephilim” is also mentioned in *Num. 13:33* where they are described as people of “great size” and made the Israelites look like “grasshoppers” in comparison. However, these “giants” cannot be the same as the Nephilim in *Gen. 6:4* since the former were all destroyed in the Flood. In that case the word is simply being used in referring to their gigantic size. Some believe that Goliath and his three brothers were of these “giants”.

7 **Tartaros**: This is the only place this Greek word is used in the New Testament. Evidently it’s referring to the deepest and darkest part of Hades, which itself will one day be cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:14).
Here we see the context of (1) the “angels who sinned” were cast down to a place called Tartaros to be incarcerated in chains to await future judgment of the Lake of Fire burning with brimstone, (2) the destruction of the ancient world by the Flood, (3) the saving of Noah and his family and (4) the destruction of the wicked, sexually immoral cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

In this passage the “angels that sinned” are again mentioned in association with Sodom and Gomorrah, which represent ungodliness, sexual immorality and perversion. These angels would then be the same as those that “did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode” in Jude 1:6 to presumably have illicit physical relations with human women.

Thus, there is a strong Biblical case that there was a class of angelic being called “the sons of God” that left their particular position in Heaven and either (1) had the ability to assume human masculine form or (2) spiritually possessed men for the purpose of having physical relations with human women (“took wives for themselves of all whom they chose”) which they found attractive and irresistible.

Finally, it should be noted that most of the Jewish rabbinical writers, the translators of the Septuagint, as well as the oldest of the church fathers, held this second explanation. Men such as the archaeologist and theologian Merrill F. Unger and the authors of the Wycliffe Bible Commentary also support this explanation. Many contemporary prominent and respected commentators such as Roy B. Zuck and Jon Courson also hold to this interpretation.

The only serious scriptural objection to this explanation is that when Jesus was asked whose wife the woman who had seven successive husbands would be after she died, Jesus responded by saying;

“You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.”—Matt. 22:29-31

This seems to indicate that because of the way angels are created they cannot engage in physical sexual activity like humans. Therefore, Jesus was simply be stating the obvious: that there will be no marital relationships in Heaven which fits the context of the question [i.e., “whose wife of the seven will she be”].

The solution to this apparent contradiction is that Jesus may have been referring specifically to angelic inter-relationships in Heaven and not on earth. This is why it was such serious sin when some of the angels [demonic spirits] did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode; that is, Heaven [Jude 1:6] because on earth it is possible for them to have some kind of illicit relations with human women. They are now “delivered…..in everlasting chains under darkness…..reserved…..for the judgment of the great day” in Tartaros [Jude 1:7; 2 Pet. 2:4].

Note also that Jesus’ statement would not apply to demonic [i.e., “fallen angel”] possession of someone. It is interesting to note that Ezek 28:11-19 and Dan 10:13 indicate that great kings of the earth have supernatural “princes” ruling behind them—their power is in reality demonic. We are told that the man who is anti-Christ will be possessed by Satan himself as he is given “his power, his throne, and great authority” [Rev. 13:2].

And finally we are told in Eph. 6:12-13 that “We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”
Therefore, it may be that demonic possession has the ability to alter, or mutate, what we now know to be the genetic information contained in human DNA. This would avoid the issue of having physical relations in the normal sense, and avoid a conflict with Matt. 22:30.

The possible result would be a change in the offspring so they have an elevated propensity for evil and an enhanced level of spiritual wickedness, which is what happened in Noah’s day.

It may be possible to compare the some of escalation of evil to an almost unheard of level in our own day with the abnormal corruption of Noah’s day. Looking around in our society today it’s not hard to imagine that something like this may be happening again.

It would explain the glorification of evil in every facet of our society [popular shows Shameless, Suburgatory, Revenge,] video games and social media of young adults “sexting” pictures of themselves. Even our language is reflecting the perversion of “good and evil” so that words like “bad” or “sick” refer to something that would normally have been called simply “good”, “neat” or “cool”.

Not satisfied with simply making a social statement, young people are wearing T-shirts that have words like “Disobey” to represent an attitude of lawlessness and anarchy, which ultimately is a rejection of divine authority and at it’s core Satanic.

Also notice; as amazing, and even shocking, that it may seem, Satan also has access to God’s throne in Heaven. However, one day he will be cast out of Heaven after he and his devils war with God and His angels and God and His angels win the war {Rev. 12:7-9}.

v.7—This answer is from Satan’s perspective but 1 Pet. 5:6-9 tells us that:

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

This is very interesting for several reasons:

(1) The context of measure of Satan’s success on believers is in direct proportion to their pride. Christians are to humble themselves before God and abide in Him by putting all their trust in His ability to care for them.

(2) Satan is a Christian’s adversary—he is against believers. He is both the “accuser of the saints” and “our adversary”. He is also the “father of lies” and a “murderer from the beginning” {John 8:44; ref. Gen. 3:1, 4-5; 4:6-8}.

(3) Satan is actually like a “roaring lion, roaming about, seeking whom he might devour”.

(4) Believers are to be pro-active in resisting the Devil by consciously resisting him in the power of the Holy Spirit and not let their sufferings discourage them through self-pity.

So, Satan was not telling the whole truth—since in “going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it” he was also looking for someone to attack and devour!

---

The interesting thing about this context is that it corresponds to supernatural experiences described by UFO some abductees who describe being subjected to sexual experimentation. In this case the UFOnauts would in reality be fallen angels impersonating alien beings.
Today, believers gain victory over the “evil one”, Satan, the Devil, by:

**Rev 12:11**—And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

**James 4:7**—Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

**1 John 5:4-5**—For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

v.8—The LORD’s “brags” to Satan about Job by recounting his character: he is **blameless, upright, trusts God absolutely and shuns evil**. This accomplishes two things: (1) it brings Job’s to the attention of Satan and (2) it makes Job a target of Satan’s attacks.

**vv. 9-12** > **SATAN’S MODIS-OPPERANDI: CASTING DOUBT, ACCUSATION & INSTIGATION**

[9 So Satan answered the LORD and said, “Does Job fear God for nothing? 10 Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 11 But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!” 12 And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person.” So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.]

**vv.9-11**—Satan in his role as the *accuser* and also instigator of evil [bearing false witness]. The name “devil” means “accuser” and the word “Satan” means “adversary” or “opponent”. We need to understand our “enemy” and also the One who is on our side and gives us spiritual weapons to fight a spiritual battle. Here are some things to remember:

“......He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.”—**John 8:44**

Satan is a liar and murderer, he wants to “kill us” and destroy our relationship with God and he will lie to do it!

Finally, my brethren, be **strong in the Lord** and in the **power of His might**. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.—**Eph. 6:10-13**

God has given the believer ample resources to stand against the lies and accusations of Satan.

Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the **accuser of our brethren**, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they **overcame him by the blood of the Lamb** and by **the word of their testimony**, and **they did not love their lives to the death**.—**Rev. 12:10-11**

So we see that Job is not the only one that Satan is accusing before God! What would you have done if you were in Job’s place?

Here is a key question that Satan asks God:

“**Does Job fear God for nothing?**”
This is a very profound question. It means does Job fear God “without any reason” or “without just cause”? In other words, was Job just “play-acting” his faith because everything was going well for him. Was the only reason that he was “faithful” to God because he had material wealth and was blessed with seven sons and three daughters? Evidently, Job’s faith had never been tested.

What about you? Do you have the right reason for fearing God and serving Him? Have you acknowledged that God loved you so much He died for you? Have you repented and turned from your pride and sin to the living God? Do you believe that Jesus was raised from the dead as proof that He is both Lord and Savior? Have you really trusted in Jesus Christ to save you from your sins?

**v.12**—compare 2 Witnesses who are slain by the Beast but are resurrected after three 1/2 days [Rev. 11:1-13]. In both cases no harm came to the saints of God unless and until God allowed it—and then only for His glory! The same is true with all believers.

**vv. 13-19 ➤ JOB’S DISASTROUS CALAMITY**

[13] Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house; 14 and a messenger came to Job and said, “The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, 15 when the Sabeans raided them and took them away—indeed they have killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!” 16 While he was still speaking, another also came and said, “The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you!” 17 While he was still speaking, another also came and said, “The Chaldeans formed three bands, raided the camels and took them away, yes, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!” 18 While he was still speaking, another also came and said, “Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, 19 and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you!”

Back in **v.4** we’re told; “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”. The scene now switches from Heaven back to earth.

During one such occasion, while Job’s sons and daughters were feasting at the oldest brother’s house, Job’s misfortune begins. In rapid succession, almost at once, Job is hit with one disaster after another.

The first messenger comes and tells Job that a raiding party of Sabeans attacked and stole all of his 500 oxen and 500 donkeys [almost $2M dollars worth of livestock at today’s prices]. Not only that, they killed all the servants and only this messenger survived to tell the tale.

Then, while the first messenger was still speaking, a second messenger comes to tell Job that “fire from God fell from heaven” [which was probably a reference to lightening] and burned up his 7000 sheep [almost $2M dollars worth of livestock at today’s prices] and all the shepherds attending them.

---

9 The Sabeans were an ancient people speaking an Old South Arabian language who lived in what is today Yemen, in the south west of the Arabian Peninsula. This is the same region and people of the Queen of Sheba [“Saba”], who visited Solomon about 1100 years later, was from {1 Kings 10:1-13}. 
A third messenger comes and gives Job the terrible news that the Chaldeans attacked and stole all 3000 of his camels [$30M dollars worth of livestock at today’s prices]. They also killed all the servants except the one that survived to tell the tale. Note that the Chaldeans were from the land called Ur (Gen. 11:28-31) which is where Abraham was from! It is interesting to consider that all this may have happened to Job prior to God’s calling Abraham out of Ur.

After the attacks by raiding parties from both the south and the north and the fire, all of Job’s almost $34M dollars worth of livestock was gone.

But if that wasn’t enough, while the third messenger is still speaking, a forth messenger comes to tell Job the tragic and sad news that all 7 of his sons and all 3 of his daughters were killed when a strong wind came across the dessert and demolished the oldest brother’s house causing it to fall on them. Again, there was only one surviving servant that escaped this tragedy to tell Job.

Talk about “when it rains it pours”! How would you have handled all this bad news? Here is some wise counsel from God’s word:

Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.—1 Cor. 10:6-13

“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.—James 1:2-8

“Have you forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons”:

‘My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives’.11

“If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for

---

10 The Chaldeans were a warlike, aggressive people {ref. Hab. 1:6-11} from the mountains of Kurdistan. Apparently they were Haldians (or Khaldians), the inhabitants of Urartu, that is, Ararat or Armenia. The ancient Chaldeans are mentioned in ancient Babylonian inscriptions and were an established class of nobility and source of culture during the time of Daniel (see Dan. 1:4). They are prominently mentioned in the books of 2 Kings, 2 Chronicles, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel. Abraham was from Ur, which is described as the land of the Chaldeans (Gen. 11:28-31).

11 Proverbs 3:11-12.
our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed”.—Heb. 12:5-13

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls”.—1 Pet. 1:3-9

vv. 20-22 ➤ Job’s Response Demonstrates Integrity of Faith

[20 Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. 21 And he said: “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.” 22 In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.]

Job did not hesitate in his response to all these disasters, he had already made up his mind beforehand that so matter what happened, God could always be trusted for He alone is the Sovereign of the Universe.

Job tears his robe and shaves his head, which was outward sign of deep inward mourning and grief. He then falls to the ground and worships the LORD by expressing his continuing strong faith that God is both Owner, and therefore Creator, of all things.

In the book of Jeremiah the Babylonian captivity and destruction of the Temple is prophesied because the God’s Chosen People, the Jews, would not listen to God and repent of their gross sin and immorality. It was going to be a time of God, as a loving Father disciplining His “children”. It would be a time of terrible misery, pain, suffering and death for God’s children. But also prophesied was a time of restoration after a time of mourning and repentance:

For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place. For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.—Jer. 29:10-13

The verse “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope” is a reminder that God loves His children and ultimately seeks their good. It has been a wonderful promise of God to the saints down through the centuries who have gone through similar trouble, pain, suffering and yes, even the loss in death.

There is also another wonderful prophetic promise in the book of Joel:

So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the crawling locust, the consuming locust, and the chewing locust, my great army which I sent among you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; and My people shall never be put to shame.—Joel 2:25-26

Job Chapter 1

Klaus G. Schiessel
Copyright © January 2014
Note that two of the three primary names for God found in the Bible, LORD [YAHWEH] and God [ELOHIYM] are used in these verses [the other is Adonai=Master]. YAHWEH represents the “Savior” name for God and ELOHIYM is the “Creator” name for God. Thus, two of the main attributes of God, that He is both Creator and Savior, are alluded to in this passage. This is significant because these are the two attributes for which God is to be worshipped and the reason that Job does so here.

For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”—Col. 1:16-17

“You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.”—Rev. 4:11

And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.”—Rev. 5:9-10

Job acknowledges two powerful spiritual truths: (1) He came into this world without anything, not even clothes to keep him warm and comfortable, and when he dies he will take nothing with him and (2) the LORD is sovereign and it’s His prerogative to give and take away; to do as He chooses with His creation.

These truths also apply to all of us—have you personally made these acknowledgments?

After Jesus spoke “mystically” about His sacrifice in terms of “eating My flesh and drinking My blood” [alluding to the elements of the Last Supper], many of those who were followers [disciples] of Jesus fell away, Jesus turned to His twelve disciples and asked the following question:

“Do you also want to go away?”—John 6:67

Peter’s answer reverberates down through the centuries and is as true today as when these words were first spoken 20 centuries ago:

But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”.—John 6:68-69

Have you come to know Jesus as the Christ, the only Creator/Giver of eternal life and Savior? There is NO ONE ELSE TO TURN TO in either plenty or famine, good times or bad. In a word the LORD is the one and only Holy God!

Earlier Satan asked God a question about Job: “Does Job fear God for nothing?” It means did Job fear God “without any reason” or “without just cause”? It’s a question we could all ask ourselves: “Do I fear God for nothing?” Do you personally know the reason why you trust in God and is He alone sufficient to meet all your needs?

Job responds to his calamity with mourning and worshipping the Lord and concludes by “blessing the name of the LORD”.

What if everything was taken from you—all your prized possessions and your health? Would you still be able to say, “Blessed be the name of the Lord”. Here are the stanzas of Matt Redman’s song, “Blessed Be Your Name” to help in pondering this question:
Blessed Be Your Name
In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name.

Blessed be Your name
When I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness
Blessed be Your name

Every blessing You pour out
I'll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in
Lord, still I will say

Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

Blessed be Your name
When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's 'all as it should be'
Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering
Blessed be Your name

Every blessing You pour out
I'll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord
Still I will say

Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

You give and take away
You give and take away
My heart will choose to say.
"Lord, blessed be Your name."

And yet Job’s suffering is not quite over. He will soon lose even his health……...
Bibliography

(4) Barnes Notes,