

**A Man Named Job (c. 2200 BC)**

Job 1–2

**A Man Named Job**

1:1 *There* was a man in the land of Uz whose name *was* Job. That man was blameless and upright and God-fearing and turning away from evil.

2 And seven sons and three daughters were born to him.

3 Then his livestock came to be seven thousand sheep and goats and three thousand camels and five hundred pairs of oxen and five hundred female donkeys, and he had very many slaves, and that man was greater than all the people of the east.

4 And his sons used to go and hold a feast at each other's house on his day, and they would send, and they would invite their three sisters to eat and to drink with them.

5 Then when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send, and he would sanctify them. Thus he would arise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings *according to* the number of all of them, because Job thought, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their heart." This is what Job used to do all the time.

**"Have you considered my servant Job?"**

6 And it happened one day that the sons of God came to present themselves before Yahweh, and Satan also came into their midst.

7 So Yahweh said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Then Satan answered Yahweh and said, "From roaming on the earth and from walking about in it."

8 So Yahweh said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? Indeed, there is no one like him on the earth—a blameless man and upright and God-fearing and turning away from evil."

9 Then Satan answered Yahweh and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing?"

10 Have you not put a fence around him and his household and around all that belongs to him on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his livestock has increased in the land.

11 But, on the other hand, stretch out your hand and touch all that belongs to him *and see* whether he will curse you to your face."

12 So Yahweh said to Satan, "Look, all that belongs to him is in your power. Only do not stretch out your hand against him." So Satan went out from Yahweh's presence.

**The First Test**

13 And then *there* was one day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their firstborn brother's house.

14 And a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing, and the female donkeys were feeding beside them.

15 Then the Sabeans attacked, and they took them, and they slew the servants by the edge of the sword. But I escaped, *even* I alone, to tell you."

16 While this one was still speaking, another came and said, "The fire of God fell from the heavens, and it blazed up against the sheep and goats and against the servants, and it consumed them. But I escaped, *even* I alone, to tell you."

17 While this one was still speaking, another came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three divisions, and they made a raid on the camels, and they carried them away, and they struck your servants by the edge of the sword, but I escaped, *even* I alone, to tell you."

18 At the time this one was speaking, another came and said, "Your sons and your daughters were eating and drinking wine in their firstborn brother's house.

19 And behold, a great wind came from across the desert, and it struck the four corners of the house so that it fell upon the young people, and they died. But I escaped, *even* I alone, to tell you."

20 Then Job arose and tore his outer garment and shaved his head; then he fell upon the ground and he worshiped.

21 Then he said, "Naked I came out from my mother's womb, and naked I will return there. Yahweh gives, and Yahweh takes. Let Yahweh's name be blessed."

22 In all this, Job did not sin and did not charge God with wrongdoing.

**"He still holds fast his integrity"**

2:1 And then one day the sons of God came to present themselves before Yahweh, and Satan also came into their midst to present himself before Yahweh.

2 So Yahweh asked Satan, "From where have you come?" And Satan answered Yahweh and said, "From roaming on the earth and from walking about in it."

3 So Yahweh asked Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? Indeed, there is no one like him on the earth—a blameless man and upright and God-fearing and turning away from evil. And still he persists in his blamelessness even though you incited me against him to destroy him for nothing."

4 Then Satan answered him and said, "Skin for skin! All that that man has he will give for his life.

5 But stretch out your hand and touch his bones and his flesh, *and see* whether he will curse you to your face."

6 So Yahweh said to Satan, "All right, he *is* in your power. Only spare his life."

**The Second Test**

7 So Satan went out from Yahweh's presence, and he inflicted Job with loathsome skin sores from the sole of his foot up to the crown of his head.

8 So he took for himself a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and he sat in the midst of the ashes.

9 Then his wife said to him, "Are you still persisting in your blamelessness? Curse God and die."

10 So he said to her, "You speak like one of the foolish women speaks. Indeed, should we receive the good from God, but not receive the evil?" In all this, Job did not sin with his lips.

**Job's Friends Come to Comfort Him**

11 Thus Job's three friends heard of this calamity that had come upon him. So each set out from his *own* place: Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite. And they met together to come to console him and to comfort him.

12 Thus they lifted up their eyes from afar, but they did not recognize him, so they raised their voice, and they wept, and each man tore his outer garment and threw dust on their heads toward the sky.

13 Then they sat with him on the ground *for* seven days and seven nights, but no one spoke a word to him because they saw that his suffering was very great.

**Job's First Speech (c. 2200 BC)****Job 3****Job Curses the Day He Was Born**

3:1 Afterward Job opened his mouth and cursed his day.

2 Thus Job spoke up and said,

- 3 "Let *the* day perish on which I was born,  
and the night that said, 'A man-child is conceived.'  
4 Let that day become darkness;  
may God not seek it from above,  
nor may daylight shine on it.  
5 Let darkness and deep shadow claim it;  
let clouds settle on it;  
let them terrify it *with the* blackness of day.  
6 Let darkness seize that night;  
let it not rejoice among *the* days of *the* year;  
let it not enter among *the* number of *the* months.  
7 Look, let that night become barren;  
let a joyful song not enter it.  
8 Let those who curse the day curse it,  
those who are skilled at rousing Leviathan.  
9 Let the stars of its dawn be dark;  
let it hope for light but there be none,  
and let it not see *the* eyelids of dawn  
10 because it did not shut the doors of my *mother's* womb,  
nor did it hide trouble from my eyes.

**Job Wishes He Had Died at Birth**

- 11 "Why did I not die at birth?  
*Why* did I *not* come forth from *the* womb and expire?  
12 Why did *the* knees receive me  
and the breasts, that I could suck?  
13 For now I would lie down, and I would be at peace;  
I would be asleep; then I would be at rest  
14 with kings and counselors of *the* earth,  
who rebuild ruins for themselves,  
15 or with high officials who have gold,  
who fill up their houses *with* silver.  
16 Or *why* was I not hidden like a miscarriage,  
like infants *who* did not see *the* light?  
17 There *the* wicked cease from troubling,

and there *the* weary are at rest;  
 18 *the* prisoners are at ease together;  
 they do not hear *the* oppressor's voice.  
 19 *The* small and *the* great *are* there,  
 and *the* slave *is* free from his masters.

**Job Bemoans His Fate—God Grants Him Life When He Longs for Death**

20 “Why does he give light to one in misery  
 and life to *those* bitter of soul,  
 21 who wait for death, but it does not come,  
 and search *for* it more than *for* treasures,  
 22 who rejoice exceedingly,  
 and they are glad when they find *the* grave?  
 23 *Why* does *he* give light to a man whose way is hidden,  
 and God has fenced him in *all* around?  
 24 For my sighing comes before my bread,  
 and my groanings gush forth like water  
 25 because the dread that I feel has come upon me,  
 and what I feared befalls me.  
 26 I am not at ease, and I am not at peace,  
 and I do not have rest, thus turmoil has come.”

Scripture quotations are from the [Lexham English Bible \(LEB\)](#). Copyright 2012 [Logos Bible Software](#). Lexham is a registered trademark of [Logos Bible Software](#).

**Chronological Notes**

- 1) The following internal evidence argues for the patriarch period as the historical setting of Job:
  - A) Job lived to be much older than 140 (Jewish tradition holds that his age at death was 70 + 140 = 210; cf. Job 42:16).<sup>1</sup> This age matches the ages of those who lived immediately after the flood (Gen 11:13–23). Also, the patriarchs lived to similar ages: Abraham lived to be 175, Isaac 180, Jacob 147, and Joseph 110.
  - B) Job's wealth consisted primarily of his possessions, his animals and his servants (Job 1:3; 42:12; cf. Gen 12:16). This is consistent with what we know of wealth during the time of the patriarchs (cf. Gen 13:1–2; 24:35).
  - C) Job indicated no knowledge of organized religion—Mosaic, Levitical or otherwise; like the patriarchs he was a priest to his own household (Job 1:5).<sup>2</sup>
- 2) A placement of the story of Job before Abraham seems best—such a position gives Job a good chronological placement and avoids interrupting the patriarch narratives of Genesis 12–50.

<sup>1</sup> Job 42:16 LXX says that “Job lived after his affliction a hundred and seventy years: and all the years he lived were two hundred and forty” (a variant says that all Job's years were 248).

<sup>2</sup> Robert L. Alden, *Job*, New American Commentary Vol. 11, 26.