

## Job

Dr. Charles “Buddy” Parrish

August 27, 2025

Job 1:1-5



Job 1:1-5

Vs. 1

- “There was a man...”. Parable or true life story, this is one person’s experience, not to be understood as a representative for all of humanity.
- “...in the land of Uz”. Perhaps this is where Frank L. Baum got the idea for a faraway land called Oz? But Uz is not the name of a place but the name of a person. Uz was the eldest son of Aram, whose father was Shem, whose father was Noah (Genesis 10:1, 21-23). But there is another Uz mentioned in Genesis 22:21 who is the nephew of Abraham. There is still a third Uz mentioned in Genesis 36:28 as a descendent of Esau. I would likely choose the great-grandson of Noah as the Uz for whom Job’s land is named. As humanity reclaimed a portion of land after the Flood, it would have been named for the first settlers. It is generally believed that the land of Uz was somewhere between modern day Jordan, Syria, and the Arabian desert.
- The name Job appears 56 times in the book. In Ezekiel 14:14, 20, God is speaking to the prophet and mentions Job along with Noah and Daniel as men who were lived righteous lives among unrighteous people.
- With only three letters in the name, regardless of which ancient near-eastern language, it is difficult to determine an exact meaning of the name. Most have said that its root meaning means “to be hostile to, an enemy, one who is an object of enmity, one who is attacked”. In Job 13:24 Job asks God, “Why do You hide Your face and consider me Your enemy?”. But a strong case is made by W.F. Albright who suggests that Job is a shortened version of a longer name found among the Semitic people of the region which means “Where is my Father?”. This may be the correct understanding as the theme of Job searching and asking, “Where is my Father/God?” runs from Ch. 9 to Ch. 37.
- We are told that Job is **blameless**, upright, one who fears God and turns away from evil. The Hebrew word here for “blameless” suggest a person who is well rounded, morally upright, and a person of integrity who is in right relationship with both God and people. Job uses the word to describe himself as does God and his wife. The word for **upright** basically means the same things and may be used here to add greater emphasis to the righteousness of the man. We are told that Job feared God. Curiously, the word for God here is the Hebrew “Elohim”, where typically in Scripture the phrase is “one who fears Yahweh”. Yahweh is the most commonly used word for God in the Old Testament, with Elohim being the second. One of the amazing things that Job does is to

push the reader toward the need for Christ and Elohim is plural. Finally, Job is one who “turned away from evil”, which one would naturally do if you feared God (Proverbs 16:6).

#### Vss. 2-3

- Eastern people typically judged a man and whether he was blessed by God, by material standards. Having a big family, especially a lot of sons, was a clear sign of God’s blessing. So it was with Job. He had 10 children signifying completeness: three daughters and the perfect number of sons, seven. More than that, he had 3000 camels which were very valuable for travel, either as pack animals or to ride. And he had 7000 sheep, which produced income for wool and food. Altogether 10,000 animals signifying the completeness of his herds. Cap all that off with “very many servants” and we see in the man Job that he was among the very elite of all the great men of the east. He would have seen himself and would have been seen by others as the epitome of a man who was richly blessed by God for his righteousness.

#### Vss. 4-5

- These verse show that Job was older, his children grown with their own houses, and that Job himself had grown into the proper role of both Patriarch and Priest for his people.
- It may be that the sons were older than their sisters as they had their own homes. They demonstrated unusually close family unity by inviting their sisters to their feast day, maybe their birthday or the day they concluded their harvest (Exodus 34:22).
- “...when the **days** of the feast had completed” suggests that the celebration went on for a while. When it was over Job would send for all his children to come to him and he would act as family priest, consecrating them. Genesis 35, Exodus 19, and Numbers 8 all speak of ritual washings and putting on new clothes.
- Job reasons to himself that this is necessary because it may be that “my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts”. Recall that the feasts went on for several with LOTS of wine flowing, and being drunk does not excuse one from the sins they have committed, even the ones you can’t remember. And Job acted as family priest on a continual basis.
- So in this opening we have a picture of a good and righteous man who is immensely blessed by God and who has grown into the proper role of Patriarch and Priest to his family and the community.