

## Job

Dr. Charles “Buddy” Parrish  
September 10, 2025  
Job 1:13-22



Job 1:13-22

Vss. 13-15

- God has given Satan permission to test Job in order to show that the man's faith and worship was not mercenary, but pure. Satan himself did have a mercenary heart and was projecting his own dark character on to Job. Thus God was allowing Job to undergo this time of pain and testing to demonstrate to angels and humanity that the relationship of Love between He and people was stronger than anything ever seen in heaven.
- Here then is the first of four disasters, coming in immediate succession. The family is gathered as was mentioned in 1:4, to celebrate the feast day of the oldest son of Job, but Job himself is not present. Here however the “hedge of protection” is completely removed. And the attack starts with the least valuable of Job's possessions and works up from there.
- The oxen and the donkeys were in the same field, some 500 of each (1:30), when suddenly they were attacked by a raiding party of Sabeans. The Sabeans were a desert tribe from Arabia and have been traced in ancient literature up and down the Arabian peninsula. They were mostly associated with the land of Sheba and the city of Teman, which is referred to in 6:19. But as a rule they were not raiders, but were often portrayed as wealthy traders who worked the caravans along the east-west trade routes. This passage is the only known record of the Sabeans acting as raiders.
- The Sabeans take the entire working stock and kill all the servants in the field, except one. Literally the Hebrew says, “I alone am witness to this disaster”. The loss of 1000 working animals and a large number of servants would be a severe financial blow.

Vs. 16

- While the first messenger was still speaking a second comes rushing in. Satan's initial strategy seems to be to overwhelm Job, to hit him repeatedly so that he is struck again and again before he has time to recover from even the first blow.
- “...the fire of God from Heaven...” Probably as reference to lightening. Recall that in Greek mythology, Zeus would sit atop Mt. Olympus with lightening bolts in his hand to throw at his unsuspecting targets. Recall also from 1:3 that Job owned 7000 sheep. Clearly that's a lot of sheep from a single lightening bolt, but think of the wildfires in California which are often started by a single lightening bolt. So now Job has lost all 7000 sheep plus all the servants who served as shepherds. And again, only one survived as a witness.

Vs. 17

- And again, before the story of the loss of the sheep can be fully reported a third servant comes crashing in with the story of Chaldean raiders who have stolen all 3000 camels and killed all the servants with them, except for one witness alone. Disaster after disaster in quick succession, mounting pain on top of pain.
- These Chaldeans would have been the ancient predecessors of the Babylonians. The city of Babylon existed in Job's time, but it was not yet a great empire. The nomadic Chaldeans were the people of that region and were known as fierce raiders and the reference to them attacking in three companies likely referred to how they attacked from three directions, cutting off and surrounding Job's servants and their camels.

#### Vss. 18-19

- And now comes the greatest pain. Sheep and camels are one thing, and beloved servants still quite another, but the loss of all ten of your children at once?! As all of Job's children were gathered at their oldest brother's house, a storm hit with a violent wind like a tornado and the entire house collapsed, killing all ten of Job's children, his seven sons and his three daughters. No mention is made of all the servants that surely were killed too, except for the one who survived to be a witness.

#### Vss. 20-22

- Some people say they had a bad day if they had a flat tire, or if their credit card was frozen because someone had stolen the card number and used it 1000 miles away. No. Those are inconveniences. The attack on Pearl Harbor was a bad day. 9/11 was a bad day. Job had a bad day.
- But The Adversary had said that if Job were to lose all that God had blessed him with, that the man would curse God to His face. Instead, Job showed his genuine grief appropriately and tore his robe, no doubt accompanied by a flow of tears, but then he did something Satan did not expect. Job shaved his head and fell to the ground and worshipped.
- His robe would have represented his wealth, power, and status, much the same way a military officer's coat would represent his rank, service, and valor. Not all of that was gone. Yes, he still owned the land, but the animals were the source of his income and sustenance. And his children were the representation of a strong legacy. Now it was all gone and so was the robe.
- Naked he came into the world and naked Job will return. And he is at peace with that. But he adds that it was the Lord who gave and the Lord who has taken away. He is unaware of The Adversary's role. Job, like everyone else, automatically assumes that God's hand is the only hand at play in the course of human events, but we **know** that it is simply not true. There is an evil in this world, an intelligent evil, who "prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8).
- But through **ALL THIS**, Job did not sin nor did he blame God. He never questions what he believes solely to be God's actions in his life. Job's immediate response to the day's multiple and crushing disasters is to unknowingly prove Satan wrong. Instead of cursing God, Job worshipped Him.