

THE BOOK OF JOB
“Living Above Mediocrity”
Text: Job 1:1-3

Key Word: Example

Key Thought: Job Lived an Exemplary Example in His Day

** A backwoods preacher found a small boy all alone, playing in the dirt. *“Where’s your father?”* the preacher asked.
The boy said, *“He was hanged last week.”*
“Where’s your mother?”
“She run off.”
“Where’s your sister?”
“She’s in jail.”
“Is there anybody else in your family?”
“Yup, I’ve got a brother.”
“Where is he?” *“At Harvard University.”*
“Well, at least one member of your family is doing well.
What is he studying?”
“Nothin’. They’re studying him.” **

This year we are going to go on an adventure. My sermons are going to, for the most part, be based upon the Book of Job. I’m striving to help us all seek to know ourselves, others and God better than we have in the past. It will take a willingness from each of us (myself included) to look deeper into **what and who** we believe in. It won’t be completed in short time. But I do believe it will be like removing a layer of an onion one at a time to get to the core.

“Why am I doing this?” you may ask. **It’s because I don’t believe that anyone who lives in a make-believe world will survive the growing challenges we are now facing.** The world is a brutal place to live and grow healthy - physically, emotionally and spiritually, just to highlight a few areas. I also believe that as we mature spiritually, we will handle emotional trials and physical depletion in a better manner.

When I hear advertisements of people saying *“I’ve never felt this good in my whole life”* I realize people can be conned into purchasing anything and then convincing themselves they made the right decision. **I don’t mean to burst anyone’s balloon, but life just doesn’t work out in simple phrases that we repeat to ourselves and to others.**

America Runs on Dunkin' (Dunkin' Donuts)
Finger Lickin' Good (KFC)
The Happiest Place on Earth (Walt Disney World Resort)
The best a man can get (Gillette)
Tastes So Good, Cat's Ask for It By Name. (Meow Mix)

What Stood out in the Life of Job?

I. JOB'S PERSONALITY (Job 1:1a)

II. JOB'S PERFECTION (Job 1:1b)

III. JOB'S PROSPERITY (Job 1:2-3)

I. JOB'S PERSONALITY (Job 1:1)

“What I have set down in a moment of ardour (fervour or zeal) I must then critically examine. Sometimes I must do myself violence before I can mercilessly erase things thought out with love.”

Pyotr Llyich Tchaikovsky
Russian Composer of the Romantic Period

A. He was NOT a Fictional Character - He was Real

“There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job.”

Job 1:1a

It seems hard to accept the fact that there are people in this world that live as exceptions to rule because we know we will never reach their level of accomplishments. There is many a G.O.A.T. (Greatest Of All Time). Few will ever box like Mohamed (Ali Cassius Marcellus Clay, Jr. January 17, 1942 – 3 June 2016). He was recognized as Sportsman of the Century in 1999 by Sports Illustrated. There are few people who could ever compare with Albert Einstein (14 March 1879 – 18 April 1955) was a German-born theoretical physicist, widely acknowledged to be one of the greatest and most influential physicists of all time.

The Bible speaks of Noah as the most righteous man of his time in history. Solomon as the wisest man in all the earth. Jesus was and will always be the LORD of Lords and God above all other gods. Job was *“blameless and upright, fearing God and shunning evil.”* Job was one of the three men that God spoke highly of to the prophet Ezekiel.

*“Son of man, if a country sins against me by being unfaithful and I stretch out my hand against it to cut off its food supply and send famine upon it and kill its people and their animals,
14. even if these three men—Noah, Daniel and Job—were in it, they could save only themselves by their righteousness, declares the Sovereign Lord.”*

Ezekiel 14:13-14

I. JOB'S PERSONALITY (Job 1:1) (Contd.)

A. He was NOT a Fictional Character - He was Real (Contd.)

“As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.”

James 5:11

B. He Came from the Land of Uz

This area of land was situated East of the Jordan River which encompassed Edom to the South and Aram to the North. It made its way East to the Euphrates River. Uz (the brother of Buz - Genesis 22:21) was the son of Nahor (the brother of Abraham) grandson of the son of Aram, the son of Shem (Genesis 10:23).

It unfortunately, like the land of the Ur of Caldeans (where Abraham lived) was increasing in idolatry. *That area is now believed to be in Southern Iraq about 160 miles away from Basra where the recent Iran - Iraq war took place.*

Ur was a prosperous bustling metropolis, home of the Sumerian kings, with a population of about 250,000. It was renowned for its textile industry (wool and flax). Other exports included grain, dates, fish and skins or leather. They imported precious metals, ivory and pearls; spices, exotic food, and fruit trees; lumber and aromatic woods. Good communications and an effective banking system helped make all this possible. Enough evidence exists to suggest that Abraham's Ur also had skilled engineers, architects, knowledgeable farmers and artisans, as well as celebrated jewellers.

They had a high level of medical expertise available to offer its citizens. The Sumerians knew how to isolate quite a variety of chemicals. They used what we refer to as “aspirin” to reduced fever and pain.

C. The Meaning of Job’s Name

The name “**Job**” means “*the persecuted*” or “*the penitent.*” When Rachel was giving birth to her last son (before she died giving birth) she named him “**Ben-Oni**” which meant “*son of my trouble.*” Jacob renamed him “**Benjamin**” which means “*son of my right hand*” as recorded in Genesis 35:18.

II. JOB'S PERFECTION (Job 1:1b)

*“And this man was **blameless and upright**, fearing God and shunning evil.”*

Job 1:1b

There are a number of Bible versions such as KJV, ASV that write that he was **“perfect and upright,”** but most including the NKJV describe him as **“blameless and upright.”** Is there a difference in someone being **“perfect”** or **“blameless?”** The word “perfect” can be used to describe many objects but “blameless” narrows in the description to a person’s **“character.”** It’s **NOT** describing what a person **DOES** but rather what a person **IS**. It is a way of emphasizing his completeness in his moral character.

“Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

James 1:4

“Let us take care, in times of trial, that patience, and not passion, is set to work in us: whatever is said or done, let patience have the saying and doing of it. When the work of patience is complete, it will furnish all that is necessary for our Christian race and warfare.”

[Matthew Henry](#)

Have you ever felt that God would say that you were not deficient when it came to the things of God? Remember the writer of this book was guided by the Holy Spirit to pen these words! We are not to take them lightly. The writer of the longest Psalm in the Bible wrote words to guide how we need to take God’s Word seriously.

*“Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees!
6. Then I would not be put to shame when I consider all your commands.*

Psalms 119:5-6

"I wish to live without committing any fault at any time."

[Benjamin Franklin](#)

II. JOB'S PERFECTION (Job 1:1b) (Contd.)

"A belief in moral absolutes should always make us more, not less, critical of both sides in any conflict. This doesn't mean that both sides are equally wrong; it means that since we all fall short of moral perfection, **even the side whose cause is truly righteous may commit terrible acts of violence in defense of that cause** -- and, worse, may feel quite justified in committing them. That is the difference between being righteous and being self-righteous. Moral standards are absolute; but human fidelity to them is always relative."

Joseph Sobran

A hard-hitting conservative writer and moralist

I am not suggesting that Job was sinless but I do believe he had a sincere desire to please God in all of his life. The New Testament tells that Jesus described Nathaniel was a man whom there was **no guile (deceit in - John 1:47)**.

III. JOB'S PROSPERITY (Job 1:2-3)

A. His Children (Job 1:2)

"He had seven sons and three daughters."

Job 1:2

Children have always been a sign of prosperity and divine favour in Eastern culture and that was true of the Children of Israel.

"Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him.

4 Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth.

5 Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court."

Psalm 127:3-5

Both a city's gates and a court of justice are places where our opponents line up to overcome us. They do it either through their numbers and strength or their craftiness. A quiver was described as being full when it had 5-30 arrows in it and most literature uses 12.

III. JOB'S PROSPERITY (Job 1:2-3) (Contd.)

A. His Children (Job 1:2) (Contd.)

The word “*quiver*” or “*full of arrows*” is used 34 times in the Old Testament. The number 7 in the Bible is the “**number of perfection**” while the number 10 is the “**number of multitude, harmony and creation**” The number 10 is used 242 times in the Bible. It is a combination of the number 4 which is the “**number of the world around us as in North, South, East and West**” and 6 which is the “**number of man.**” Having more sons than daughters was considered even more in consideration of a family’s prosperity.

B. His Property (Job 1:3)

“and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys (Heb - female that could reproduce), and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East.”

Job 1:3

The amount of land was not significant in his time period. He may have even rented the land he used (Job 31:39). He would have been referred to as an Arab prince of sheikh. Writers do not believe that he was a wandering Bedowin because he was well respected and given honour of a seat in the public square at the gate of the city (Job 29:7-11). He didn’t place his trust in his prosperity or rejoice over what he owned (Job 31:24,25).

“Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?”

James 2:5

Jesus never even needed a place on earth to “*lay his head*” (Matthew 8:20) because He owned everything He created. “**Heaven is my throne and the earth is my footstool**” (Isaiah 66:1; Acts 7:49). Have you ever “footed the bill” for someone in your life? That bill belongs to you - you are responsible for it. There is no doubt that He was an exemplary example for those of his generation and ours to pattern our lives after.

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Date: Jan 22/23

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: There was Jesus

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A. He was NOT a Fictional Character - He was Real - *Job 1:1a; Ezekiel 14:13-14; James 5:11*

B. He Came from the Land of Uz - *Genesis 22:21; Genesis 10:23*

C. The Meaning of Job’s Name - *Genesis 35:18.*

II. JOB’S PERFECTION (Job 1:1b) - *Job 1:1b; James 1:4; Psalm 119:5-6; John 1:47*

III. JOB’S PROSPERITY (Job 1:2-3)

A. His Children - *Job 1:2; Psalm 127:3-5*

B. His Property - *Job 1:3; Job 31:39; Job 29:7-11; Job 31:24,25; James 2:5; Matthew 8:20; Isaiah 66:1; Acts 7:49*