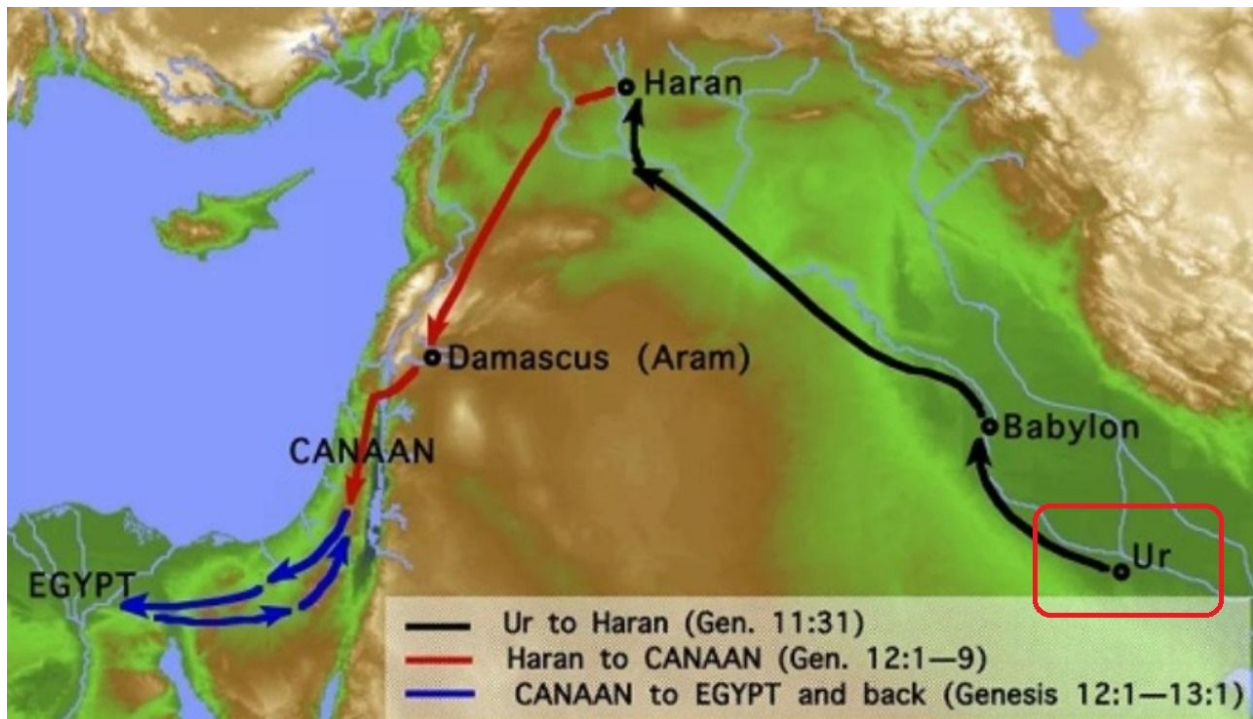


Job 1

Verse 1

There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and that man was blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil.

See Map 105



When Job lived is difficult to say with certainty but using some logic and a bit of guess work let's come to an approximation of when that might have been.

From the context it seems likely that he lived after the flood and before Abraham which would place him sometime between 3098 BC and 1996 BC. It is also likely that he lived after the Tower of Babel which took place after the birth of Peleg (2697 BC). So let's say Job lived around 2500 BC.

People of that time were living to be about 300 years old which would fit the details we know about Job. Job lost his 1st family which was fairly large and then he was hit with the sickness that tormented him. After that God healed him and gave him a 2nd family. Then he lived 140 years after his second family.

See chart 110

From the genealogies of Genesis 5 and 11

	Father	born	son	died	age
1	ADAM	5340	230	4410	930
2	SETH	5110	205	4198	912
3	ENOSH	4905	190	4000	905
4	CAINAN	4715	170	3805	910
5	MAHALALEL	4545	165	3650	895
6	JARED	4380	162	3418	962
7	ENOCK	4218	165	3853	365
8	METHUSELAH	4053	167	3084	969
9	LAMESH	3886	188	3133	753
10	NOAH	3698	502	2748	950
11	SHEM	3196	100	2596	600
	Flood	3098			
12	ARPHAXAD	3096	135	2561	535
13	SHELAH	2961	130	2501	460
14	EBER	2831	134	2427	404
15	PELEG	2697	130	2358	339
16	REU	2567	132	2228	339
17	SERUG	2435	130	2105	330
18	NAHOR	2305	179	2001	304
19	TERAH	2126	130	1921	205
20	ABRAM	1996	100	1821	175
21	ISACC	1896	60	1716	180
22	JACOB	1836	91	1689	147
23	JOSEPH	1745		1635	110

Verses 2 - 5

² Seven sons and three daughters were born to him. ³ His possessions were seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and very many servants; and that man was the greatest of all the men of the east. ⁴ His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day, and they would send *word* and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. ⁵ When the days of feasting had completed their cycle, Job would send *word to them* and consecrate them, getting up early in the morning and offering burnt offerings *according to* the number of them all; for Job said, "Perhaps my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Job did so continually.

² Seven sons and three daughters were born to him.

Rich men could afford a large family.

³ His possessions were seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and very many servants; and that man was the greatest of all the men of the east.

His possessions included 7000 sheep, 3000 camels, 500 oxen, and 500 she-asses. It's hard to make direct comparisons with Abraham but it seems he had greater wealth than Abraham.

⁵ When the days of feasting had completed their cycle, Job would send *word to them* and consecrate them, getting up early in the morning and offering burnt offerings according to the number of them all; for Job said, "Perhaps my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Job did so continually.

The scene here seems to be in the patriarchal age when the father was the priest for his family and Job was faithful in that responsibility. Job offered burnt offering for his sons long before it was codified in the law and he recognized that sin begins in the heart. His faith in God was very strong as we will see as the story continues.

Verses 6 - 12

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 The Lord said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Satan answered the Lord and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it." ⁸ The Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil." ⁹ Then Satan answered the Lord, "Does Job fear God for nothing? ¹⁰ Have You not made a fence around him and his house and 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 reach out with Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will certainly curse You to Your face." ¹² Then the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not reach out *and put* your hand on him." So Satan departed from the presence of the Lord.

⁶ Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them.

The Septuagint has a better translation of this verse.

6 And it came to pass on a day, that behold, the angels of God came to stand before the Lord, and the devil came with them.

We have a similar issue when it comes to translating the word for “Lord”. Depending on the translation one uses, the word often translated as Jehovah is a German pronunciation of a Latin word. It is translated from the Hebrew word YHWH (Yahweh). Jehovah was first used in the 13th century AD but it should be translated Yahweh not Jehovah. If the timeframe for Job is 2500 BC, then the term Yahweh was used long before the time of Moses.

⁷ The Lord said to Satan, “From where do you come?” Satan answered the Lord and said, “From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it.”

See Jude 1:6

And angels who did not keep their own domain but abandoned their proper dwelling place, *these* He has kept in eternal restraints under darkness for the judgment of the great day.

Some people object to this verse and say that Satan doesn’t seem to be chained. A Baptist preacher in one of my classes at College said, “If Satan is chained, the stake must be in my back yard”. From a human perspective, most believers would agree with his sentiment but in verse 12 we see that he is limited in what he can do. Satan is definitely bound because he can only act within certain parameters that God allows him to act. With that being the case, one has to wonder what it means that the angels are “in eternal restraints under darkness”.

⁸ The Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil.”

This is very high praise coming from God and this must have gotten in Satan’s craw because he is about to inflict untold pain and anguish on this Godly man. Job is an innocent man that is about to suffer for “the sake of righteousness” (being righteous).

⁹ Then Satan answered the Lord, “Does Job fear God for nothing? ¹⁰ Have You not made a fence around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.

Satan was implying that Job's motive for serving God was self-serving, that he loved and obeyed God because he had been blessed by God in so many ways. However, Satan's argument was baseless for the following reason. When God gave Israel the law about 1000 years later He clearly promised material blessings to those who loved and obeyed Him, but the love and obeying came before the blessing. Satan is skilled at telling lies in such a way that they sound plausible when in fact they are half-truths that trick mankind into doing things that harm and destroy them. Also, why do so many poor people who are not blessed like Job, love and obey God?

¹¹ But reach out with Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will certainly curse You to Your face.”

In the Garden of Eden, Satan denigrated God before Adam and Eve and here he disparages Job (man) before God. It seems like no one is worthy of any praise in Satan's eyes; except himself of course.

¹² Then the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not reach out and put your hand on him.” So Satan departed from the presence of the Lord.

Satan is about to cause some terrible havoc that is senseless and brutal so this is a good time to state the obvious, that not all suffering is the result of our sin. The following examples are common to all of mankind.

1. Some comes from the fact that we live in a fallen world.

We live in a fallen world because of Adam and Eve's sin. The once perfect world is now in a state of decay and all of mankind is subject to death and suffering because of that sin. There are numerous tragedies because of this fallen nature of the world; Earth quakes, tsunamis, volcanic activity, famine and plague.

2. Some suffering comes because we are doing what is right.

Since this world is under the influence of Satan it is only natural that those who try to live for God will suffer the wrath of Satan. Even the Son of God suffered at the hands of those who follow Satan and He was without sin.

But why would God allow mankind to suffer for things that they are not responsible for?

Suffering is not something we desire but at the same time we know that the process of being refined thru suffering is essential to our growth and God gives us the grace that we need to endure it.

Verses 13 - 19

¹³ Now on the day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, ¹⁴ a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the female donkeys feeding beside them, ¹⁵ and the Sabeans attacked and took them. They also killed the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you." ¹⁶ While he was still speaking, another 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 came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three units and made a raid on the camels and took them, 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 your daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, ¹⁹ and behold, 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 died, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

We have all heard the expression, "When it rains, it pours". Well, this was a deluge. Four terrible tragedies struck at the same time.

1. The Sabeans attacked and took the oxen and female donkeys and killed the servants.

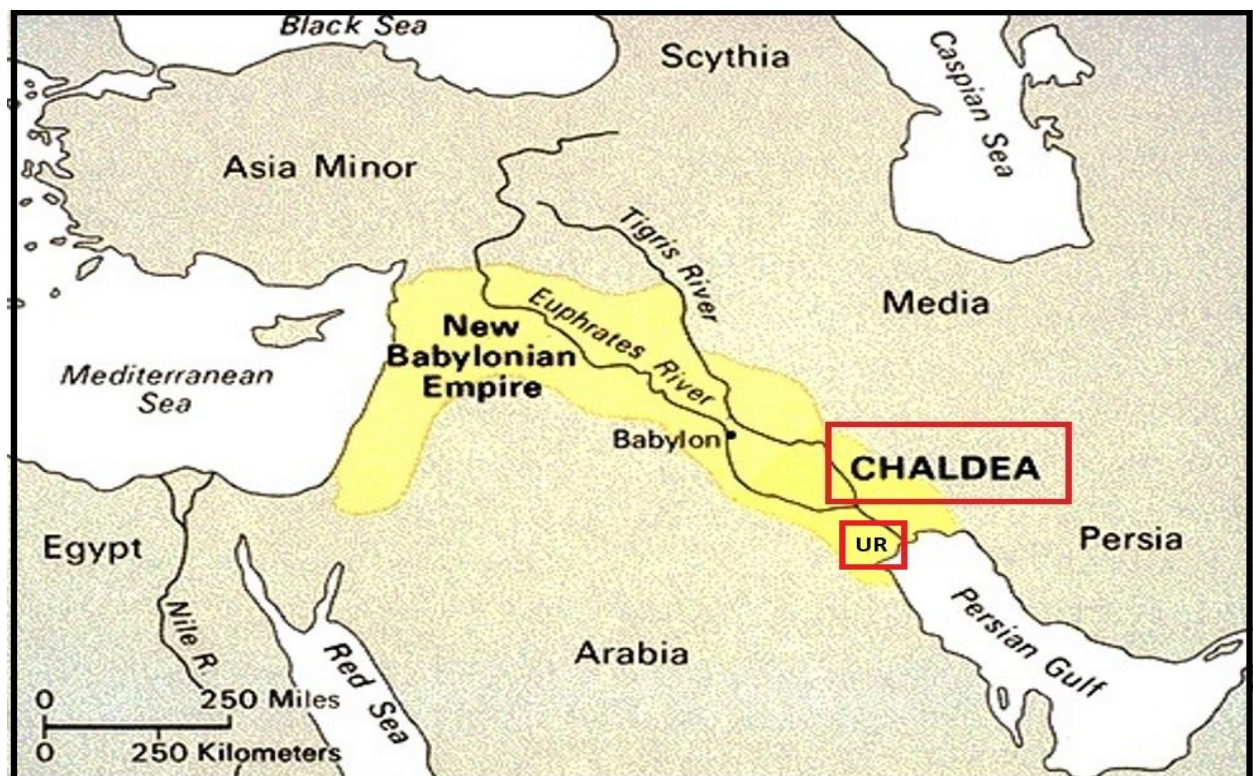
See map 115 below.

2. Fire from heaven burned up the sheep and servants.

3. The Chaldeans took the camels and killed the servants.

See Map 120 below

4. Job's sons and daughters die when a great wind destroys the house they were in.



Verses 20 - 22

²⁰ Then Job got up, tore his robe, and shaved his head; then he fell to the ground and worshiped. ²¹ He said,

“Naked I came from my mother’s womb,
And naked I shall return there.
The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away.
Blessed be the name of the Lord.”

²² Despite all this, Job did not sin, nor did he blame God.

The 1st response to disaster is grief; this is a natural response to any kind of loss.

The 2nd step was to worship God rather than blaming Him for what happened. Satan strikes out at us in order to get back at God but we should never let pain and suffering get between us and the Father because if we blame God, then Satan gets his revenge and we suffer a much greater loss.

The 3rd step was to remember that He had been blessed in this life and what the Lord had given He can take away. This was the thinking of a very mature man of God and something all believers should learn to imitate.

Before we leave this chapter it should be noted that there were a number of topics brought up in this chapter that will reappear throughout the Book of Job and each time they will be covered in much greater detail. This 1st chapter should be seen as an introduction to these important issues and the following chapters will bring opportunities to more fully explore them. The 3 most important issues include the following:

- 1. What it means to live in a fallen world.**
- 2. Why people suffer for doing what is right.**
- 3. Why does God allow mankind to suffer?**