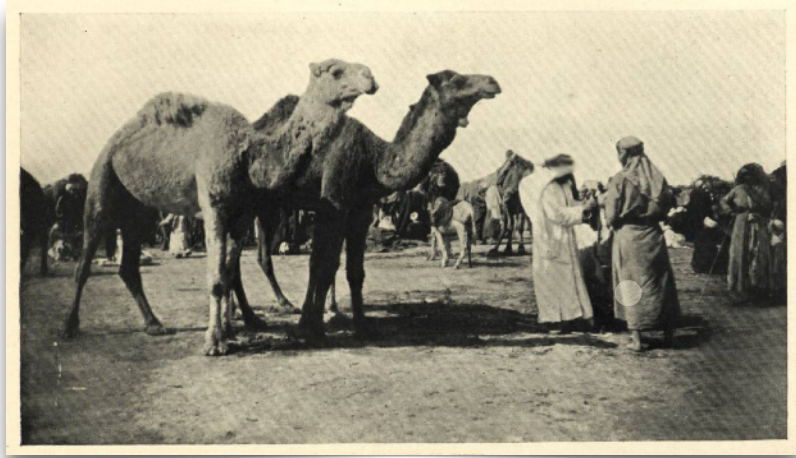


3 Job's stellar leadership and fatherly care

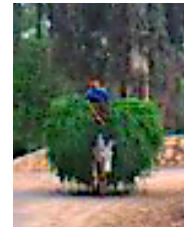
“The caravans of Tema looked, the travelers of Sheba hoped for them.” *Job 6:19*



Who was this man Job? What was he like? We know that Job who lived in the land of Uz became a powerful and influential leader—described as “the greatest of all the men of the East.”

As he traveled throughout his lands, the princes and community leaders were left speechless and in awe. Job's wealth was measured in large accumulations of livestock, crops, and servants. Job's enterprises touched the lives of seemingly countless people through his vast holdings, while providing great resources and sources of income for great numbers of people.

Furry Beasts



For example, Job's flocks of 7000 sheep would have contributed greatly to the local agricultural economy, providing jobs from the production of wool, milk, and mutton. His 500 yoked oxen also provided wealth through their powerful work while also providing meat and hides. They performed the crucial role of clearing lands and bearing great loads.

Job's wealth included 500 donkeys and 3000 camels—thus he and his servants controlled the largest trucking/shipping/people-moving business in the region. Donkeys and camels also provided a resource of hides, meat, and milk production.

Camels were highly valued like high-end cars/trucks are today. I read an article about a camel seller in Saudi Arabia. He showed reporters a juvenile camel that he had raised since birth. He proudly noted, “I am asking \$150,000 for this one.” Some “super camels” are worth one million dollars in the camel market. So Job, owning 3000 camels, made him one very wealthy man.



Wise CEO and Caring Dad

“But where can wisdom be found? . . .
Pure gold cannot be given in exchange for it,
Nor can silver be weighed as its price.
It cannot be valued in the gold of Ophir,
In precious onyx, or sapphire.
Gold or glass cannot equal it,
Nor can it be exchanged for articles of fine gold.
Coral and crystal are not to be mentioned;
And the acquisition of wisdom is above that of pearls.
The topaz of Ethiopia cannot equal it,
Nor can it be valued in pure gold.”
Job 28:12-19

Job speaks of the value of wisdom. He was quite familiar with the wonderful beauty and value of precious gems, fine gold, coral, and pearls. None of these wonders had any value to him compared to garnering wisdom.

Although a respected and very rich business leader, Job was not driven to hoard wealth at the expense of his people. He used his resources to bring protection and prosperity to those on

his lands. We will discover that he was not like cold and ruthless moguls who attain great power and then abuse it. Job would not demean those who worked for him with disrespect.

Job also did not use his power to harm anyone, but instead he used it to demonstrate care. Notice in the passage that wisdom was far more important to him than all that the world could ever offer—even as beautiful and enticing as the marvelous treasures were.

Job knew wisdom was hard for men to find, but not for God.

“God understands its [wisdom] way,
And He knows its place.
For He looks to the ends of the earth
And sees everything under the heavens.” *Job 28:24*

Dads like Job Lead the Way

Job lived a life full of wisdom. He knew God “sees everything under the heavens.” Being a devoted and caring father, he acted as the priest for his family. Wisely, he made sacrifices for his children and others in case they sinned.

“His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. When the days of feasting had completed their cycle, Job would send and consecrate them, rising 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.’ Thus, Job did continually.”
Job 1:4-5

As an attentive father, Job was aware of the vulnerability of his children. He knew the human heart. He recalled how he himself had sinned in his youth. So, he took much time and energy to rise early in the mornings to gather his children together in order to consecrate them. We don’t know what that means, but he sent for them in order to purify them before God. Why? Because he was concerned that if his sons had sinned, perhaps they might turn from God—by cursing God or renouncing God in their hearts. Job knew that sin has a way of taking our hearts far from God, even to the point of cursing Yahweh, his God.

Job involved his children through his personal relationship with God so that it might become theirs. As the sacrifices were made, they were learning to seek their own forgiveness from God. They also were learning from their dad’s efforts that God wanted them to have pure hearts. And they were learning what a godly father looks like—observant, caring, and personally teaching them how to relate to God.



Speaking of dads, my father was one of the most devoted men to God I ever knew. Sometimes, I would find my dad praying in the walk-in-closet of my parents' bedroom. There he was, on his knees facing toward the back of the closet. I knew he was praying for our family, for us three girls, and for other concerns. I felt comforted.

God was central to my dad's life. He participated with a ministry that encouraged memorization of scripture. He often practiced with us girls, so we got to hear the verses, too. And I often saw my Dad reading his big black Bible that often lay open on his desk in the master bedroom.

If we girls were fighting and arguing with one another as we sometimes did, Dad would say, "Let's pray." I would immediately think, "*But I don't want to pray.*" It was hard to be angry with my sisters when Dad was tenderly talking with God and asking God to help us forgive each other and love one another. I would try really hard to stay mad at my sisters but could not. As he sometimes prayed, "God, today we come to you to ask your forgiveness . . ." his prayers melted my heart. *Phooey, I can't be mad at my sisters anymore.* I learned that prayers with Dad changed how I felt, how we all felt.

My parents together as a team loved God and prayed with us spontaneously. Dad and Mom often began our prayers with, "Let's take time before we talk with God to confess our sins. God wants us to come to him with pure hearts." And when an ambulance went by, they might immediately begin to pray, "Lord, please help the person who is in that ambulance . . ."

When our family lived in the Dallas area, every Saturday morning Dad left the house very early to pray with a group of men. These men were devoted to God and to their families. Through the years our family, and I'm sure theirs as well, felt protected by those prayers. Later on, when we moved to California, Dad and Mom often prayed early on Saturday mornings by themselves. I would knock on their door if I needed to ask a question. Inside I would find Mom with a small tablet and pen in hand as she and Dad sat together on their bed. Mom would write on a list their concerns as they prayed for us, others, and for the needs of the world.

That was what Job was demonstrating to his children, as well. “God cares about what you do and what is going on in your hearts. God is watching. He matters. I care deeply about you. Let’s come before God and pray together.”

Compassionate, Moral, Lover of God

Job also worked well with people of all walks of life. We will look deeper to see how he brought justice and aid to his servants, widows, orphans, and for the many who traveled through his lands. Because he was a compassionate man, he wanted to provide for and protect those under his care. He actually rescued people from poverty, danger, and evil men with his direct actions.

We will also discover that Job was morally upright in his community relationships. He was a model of integrity because he was quite aware of his important role and responsibilities before God. He did not rely on his wealth for security. Instead, he used his money wisely. It was a vehicle to help others. “Integrity” on every level was his middle name.

As I read through the book of Job, I discovered the heart of a truly devoted follower of the LORD God. Job worshiped the LORD as the one true God, the supreme ruler of all, recognizing him as the one who provided his wonderful blessings of family, fulfilling work, wealth, position, and opportunities for influence.

However, as Job enjoyed an idyllic bounty in his life, living a life of stellar integrity, he had no way of knowing that terrible tragedies would soon strike, seemingly out of nowhere.



Thought questions—

~Think about the followers of God you know and admire. How are they like Job in demonstrating integrity, care, and justice to others? See Job chapters 1, 29, and 31.

~In Job 1:4-5 we see a glimpse of Job's attentiveness to his children as they are beginning to spread their wings. What do you think these ten children might have learned watching how their father worked, observing how he lived his life, and also how he worshiped God?

~As noted in Job 23, Job valued wisdom more than he did the beautiful gems and collectibles of his world. What might Job have seen or experienced to believe that wisdom (with God as the basis) mattered far more than any physical treasure he could own and also far more than having a prominent place in his world?

~ How important is living wisely to you? As you reflect on Job 23, how do you demonstrate to your family and community that you value wisdom more than your treasures and your attainments? What can help you to grow in your love for wisdom above all else and becoming wiser?

Notes:

1. "Saudi Arabia: Where camels are sold for millions." <http://crofsblogs.typepad.com/h5n1/2013/12/saudi-arabia-where-camels-are-sold-for-millions.html>, (accessed 5/20/2018).

2. Camels in Saudi Arabia http://www.todayzaman.com/travel_the-famous-camel-bazaars-of-saudi-arabia_357566.html, (accessed 1/28/2017).

3. When did Job Live? Tradition assigns the home of Job to a region east of the Sea of Galilee, noted for its fertility of soil and large production of grain. This area was once thickly populated. It is now dotted with the ruins of more than three hundred cities. (DeHoff, George W. DeHoff's Commentary: Vol. III. Murfreesboro: DeHoff Publications, 1977, 9. The Book of Job appears to have been written during patriarchal times. "The writing of the first five books of the Old Testament by Moses. The Book of Job may be the oldest Bible book. However, other than assigning the date of the book to patriarchal times, a more precise date for its production cannot be ascertained. That extra-biblical literature refers to the Book of Job in about 2000 B.C. pushing the origin of the Book of Job and the unfolding of the events that it

chronicles more than 500 years before the beginning of Judaism at Mt. Sinai (about 1400 B.C.). It seems that Job lived “about 1,800 years before Christ, and about 600 years after the deluge” However other scholars disagree. (Barnes’ Notes. CD-ROM. Seattle: BibleSoft, 2006. www.siwelroad.com/index.php/component/phocadownload/.../7-new-classes?...job See: <https://www.google.com/webhp?sourceid=chrome-instant&ion=1&espv=2&ie=UTF-8#>, (accessed 3/7/2017).

Date options for the events of Job. Probably pre-Mosaic, even patriarchal from the second Millennium B.C. Reasons: 1. Job is lacking references to historical events and reflects a non-Hebraic cultural background which little is known about 2. Location: a. Uz was located in northern Arabia 3. a. Job’s friend, Eliphaz, came from Teman, a city in Edom b. Elihu came from the Buzites who lived next to the Chaldeans in northeast Arabia 4. Support for a pre-Mosaic date: a. The patriarchal family-clan organization reflects the time of Abraham rather than after the Exodus b. The offering of sacrifice by the head of the family rather than a priest reflects a time before the Exodus c. The mention of a qesitah as a type of money (Job 42:11) suggests a date which is at least during the time of Joshua (cf. Jos. 24:32), if not during the patriarchal period (cf. Gen 33:19) 5. Support for an early second millennium date of Job as a contemporary with the patriarchs: a. The reference in Ezekiel 14:14 to Job and Daniel may be a reference to the ancient Canaanite hero Dan’el who was a prominent figure in the Ugaritic epics rather than to the contemporary prophet, Daniel 6 a. Other names in Job are authentic for the second millennium B.C.: 1) Bildad was short for Yabil Dadum, a name found in cuneiform sources of the second millennium B.C. 2) Job is found in the “Babylonian Job”, a cuneiform composition. Conclusion: Although it is not possible to be certain, a patriarchal date is reasonable and perhaps best explains the material as we have it. <https://bible.org/article/introduction-book-job>, (accessed 3/28/2017).

Different dates are involved: Job (1:1) who probably lived in the second millennium b.c. (2000–1000). Like the Hebrew patriarchs, Job lived more than 100 years (42:16). Like them, his wealth was measured in livestock and servants (1:3), and like them he acted as priest for his family (1:5). The raiding of Sabean (1:15) and Chaldean (1:17) tribes fits the second millennium, as does the mention of the *k e s i t a h*, “a piece of silver,” in 42:11 (see Ge 33:19; Job 24:32. The discovery of a Targum (Aramaic paraphrase) on Job dating to the first or second century b.c. (the earliest written Targum yet discovered) makes a very late date for composition highly unlikely. <http://www.biblica.com/en-us/bible/online-bible/scholar-notes/niv-study-bible/intro-to-job/>, (accessed 3/28/2017).

3. Camels and historicity. Interestingly some archeological historians in the past decade claimed that camels were not domesticated as early as the biblical texts assert. However, other research scholars have found different breeds of dromedary dating back to ancient Biblical history as recorded. See “Origin of dromedary domestication discovered.” May, 9, 2016. <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/05/160509191839.htm>, (accessed 9/22/2016).



4. Twenty-four times in the book of Job the covenant name for God (Yahweh, meaning the LORD) is used in the prologue, divine discourses by God in the end, and in the epilogue. Only once does it appear in the chapters of 3-37 (where Elohim is used) is contained the discourses between Job’s friends and Job. Louis Rushmore. “Notes on the Book of Job.” file:///Users/kristimiller/Downloads/job%20(4).pdf Job is mentioned 59 times in 53 Bible verses. Only one of those ...<https://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:xQhG0X3MessJ:https://www.cedarville.edu/~Media/Files/PowerPoint/Alumni/OT-lecture-slides/19-20-job.pptx+&cd=13&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us>, (accessed 5/8/2017).

Images:

1. Camel, old time photo from the Camel Market at Gizeh. (1911) - TIMEA.jpg Sladen, Douglas - Created: 31 December 1910. Original source: Sladen, Douglas. "Queer Things About Egypt." J.B. Lippincott Company: Philadelphia and Hurst & Blackett, Limited: London, 1911. p 094a, <https://>

[commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Camel_markets_in_Egypt#/media/File:The_Camel_Market_at_Gizeh_\(1911\)_-_TIMEA.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Camel_markets_in_Egypt#/media/File:The_Camel_Market_at_Gizeh_(1911)_-_TIMEA.jpg), (accessed 5/8/2017).

2. Photos from trip to Alexandria and Cairo Egypt, personal.

3. Image of men in group “Meeting of Arab Chiefs Jean-Horace Vernet (lived 1789 -1863). Public Domain, <https://www.meisterdrucke.uk/fine-art-prints/Emile-Jean-Horace-Vernet/576402/Meeting-of-Arab-Chiefs-.html>, (accessed 5/30/2017).

4. Family photo taken around 1968, personal.

5. Camel face https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Camel_herd,_Palmyra,_Syria.jpg Date: 2 March 2007, 09:13 Source: Camel herd, Palmyra, Syria Author: James Gordon from Los Angeles, California. (accessed 5/30/2017).

6. Image of goat herders in middle east landscape. This image will be used for all of the thought question sections. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Goat_Herders_in_a_Middle_Eastern_Landscape_Frank_Dean.jpg, (accessed 6/10/2020).