

Job 1:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.

Analysis

The specific enumeration of Job's wealth (7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 donkeys) demonstrates that blessing in the patriarchal era was tangible and measurable. The phrase 'greatest of all the men of the east' establishes Job's international reputation, making his subsequent suffering a public spectacle that demands theological explanation.

Historical Context

In the ancient Near East, livestock wealth determined social status and economic power. The 'east' likely refers to the region of Uz, possibly in Edom or Northern Arabia, where patriarchal society flourished before Israel's formation.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. Does God still measure blessing in material terms, or has the gospel redefined prosperity?
2. How should Christians view wealth in light of Job's story?

Interlinear Text

אֶלֶף אֶלֶף וְשָׁלֹשׁ תְּשִׁבְעַת מֵקְנָהוּ יָיוֹם
H1961 His substance also was seven thousand sheep and three thousand

H4735 H7651 H505 H6629 H7969 H505

אַתָּה וְתַּחַם שְׁגָמֵל יָמִם
camels and five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred she asses

H1581 H2568 H3967 H6776 H1241 H2568 H3967 H860

בְּבֵב הַיּוֹם מֵאָד תִּלְיָהִי
household great and a very H1961 so that this man

H5657 H7227 H3966 H1961 H376 H1931 H1419

בְּבִנֵּי מִקְּלָה
H3605 of all the men of the east

H1121 H6924

Additional Cross-References

Job 29:25 (Parallel theme): I chose out their way, and sat chief, and dwelt as a king in the army, as one that comforteth the mourners.

Job 42:12 (Parallel theme): So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses.

Judges 6:3 (Parallel theme): And so it was, when Israel had sown, that the Midianites came up, and the Amalekites, and the children of the east, even they came up against them;

1 Kings 4:30 (Parallel theme): And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt.

Numbers 23:7 (Parallel theme): And he took up his parable, and said, Balak the king of Moab hath brought me from Aram, out of the mountains of the east, saying, Come, curse me Jacob, and come, defy Israel.

Proverbs 10:22 (Parallel theme): The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

Genesis 12:16 (Parallel theme): And he entreated Abram well for her sake: and he had sheep, and oxen, and he asses, and menservants, and maidservants, and she asses, and camels.

Genesis 12:5 (Parallel theme): And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.

Genesis 29:1 (Parallel theme): Then Jacob went on his journey, and came into the land of the people of the east.

Genesis 13:6 (Parallel theme): And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together.