

Job's Righteousness and Prosperity

Job is introduced as a man of extraordinary righteousness and blessing—wealthy, influential, and devoted to God and his family.

Job 1:1-5

CHARACTERS: Job, Job's children

THEMES: Righteousness, Blessing, Family, Worship, Integrity

IN THE LAND of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. The opening words of his story are among the most significant in Scripture: he was blameless and upright, a man who feared God and shunned evil. This was not self-proclaimed virtue but God's own assessment—Job was the most righteous man on earth.

His prosperity matched his character. He owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred donkeys. His household included a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East—not merely wealthy, but influential, respected, a pillar of his community.

Yet Job's greatest treasure was his family. He had seven sons and three daughters. His sons would hold feasts in their homes on their birthdays, rotating houses, and they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. It was a picture of harmony and abundance.

But what truly set Job apart was his spiritual vigilance. When the period of feasting had run its course, Job would make arrangements to have his children purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, 'Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.'

This was Job's regular custom. He was not content with external righteousness; he was concerned with the hidden thoughts of the heart. He interceded for his family, standing in the gap between them and God. He took seriously the holiness of God and the reality of sin, even unspoken sin.

In every way measurable to human observation, Job was a man who had it all—material prosperity, social standing, family unity, and most importantly, a right relationship with God. He had built his life on the foundation of reverence for the Almighty. He was at the peak of blessing, completely unaware that he stood on the precipice of unimaginable loss.

The stage was set. Job's righteousness was not theoretical—it was about to be tested in ways no human should have to endure. The question hanging in the cosmic balance was this: Did Job fear God for nothing? Was his devotion conditional on continued blessing? The coming storm would provide the answer.