

Job and his wife lived in the land of Uz. He was a very good man and loved God.

Job was a man of great learning and influence. Job was a man of great generosity. He took care of the widows and the orphans.



Job had 7 sons and 3 daughters, all grown up with families of their own.

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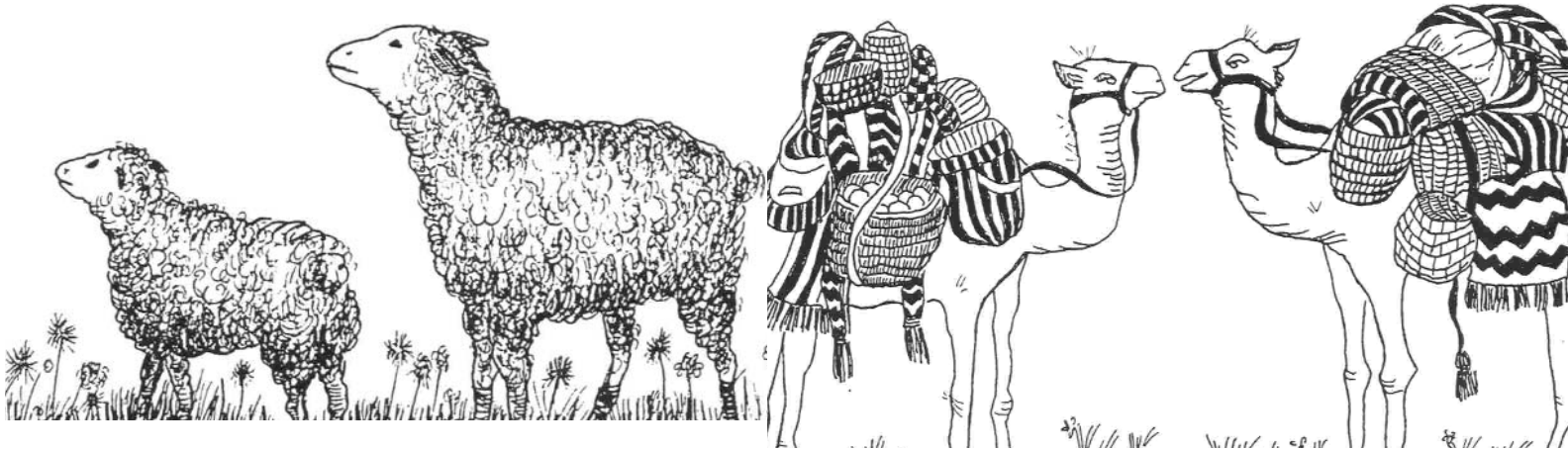
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Job was very rich!

As a merchant of great wealth, he carried on an extended and very prosperous business.

Job had 7,000 sheep...

3,000 camels...

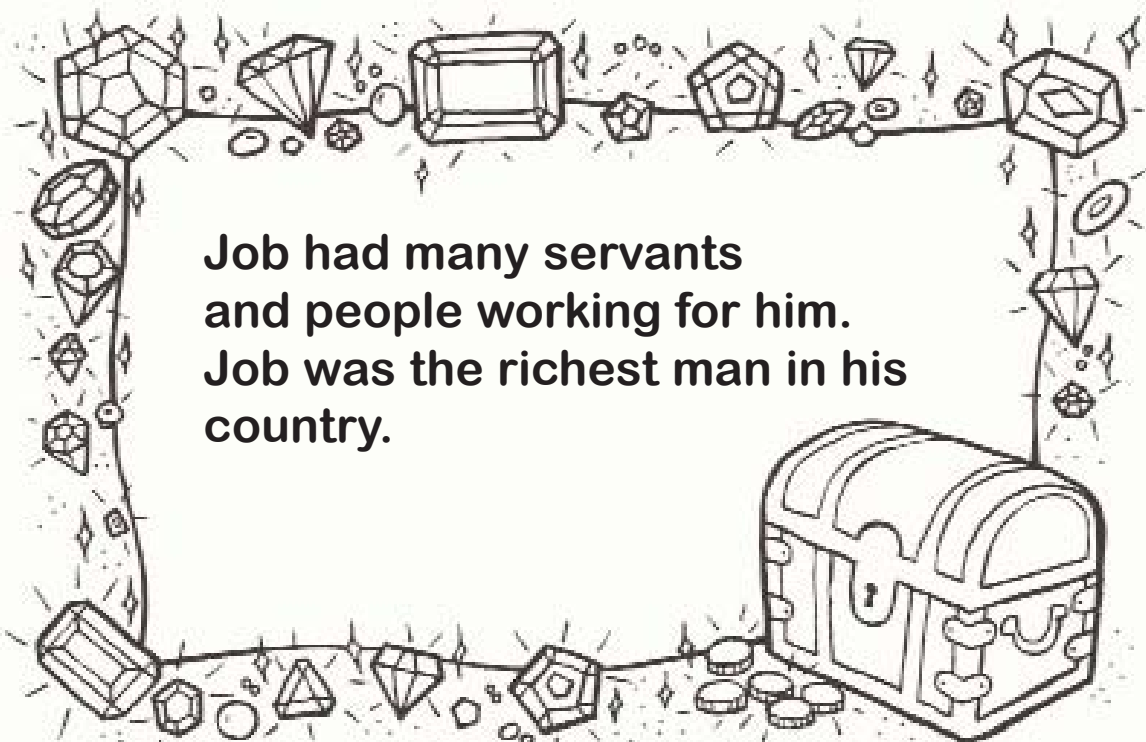


500 yoke of oxen...

500 asses...



**Job had many servants
and people working for him.
Job was the richest man in his
country.**



One day, the devil said to God,

**"You have blessed Job and given him everything.
That is the only reason Job worships you.
If you would take away your blessings,
Job would no longer praise you."**

God said to the devil,

**"Do what you want to all that Job has
but do not touch him."**



The devil left God and began his evil work.

Suddenly a messenger came to Job saying,

All your oxen and donkeys are gone. All of the men that helped you are gone.



While the messenger was still speaking, a second messenger came and said,

A huge fire has killed all the sheep.



And still a third messenger arrived saying,

Some thieves came and stole all your camels.



And still a fourth messenger arrived saying,

"All of your sons and daughter were eating together when suddenly there came a huge wind and the house fell on them and they are all dead."



Job was so sad.
In a single day,
he had lost everything.
He lost his land,
He lost his livestock.
He lost his sons and daughters.

Job fell to his knees in great sorrow. But he did not complain to God. He did not sin with his words.

Instead Job worshipped God saying,

**"..the LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away,
blessed be the name of the LORD."**

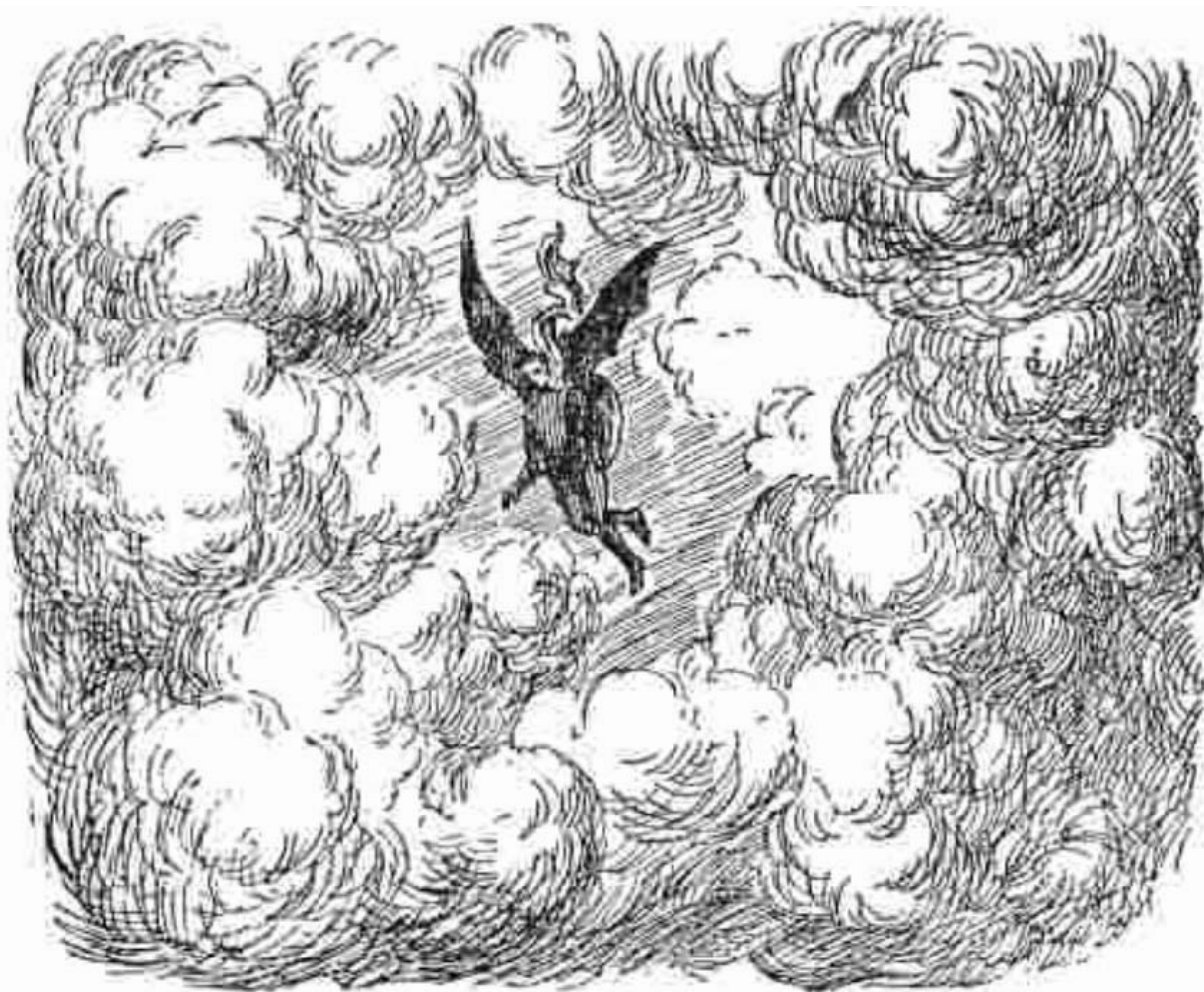
After all those bad things happened to Job, he still praised God.



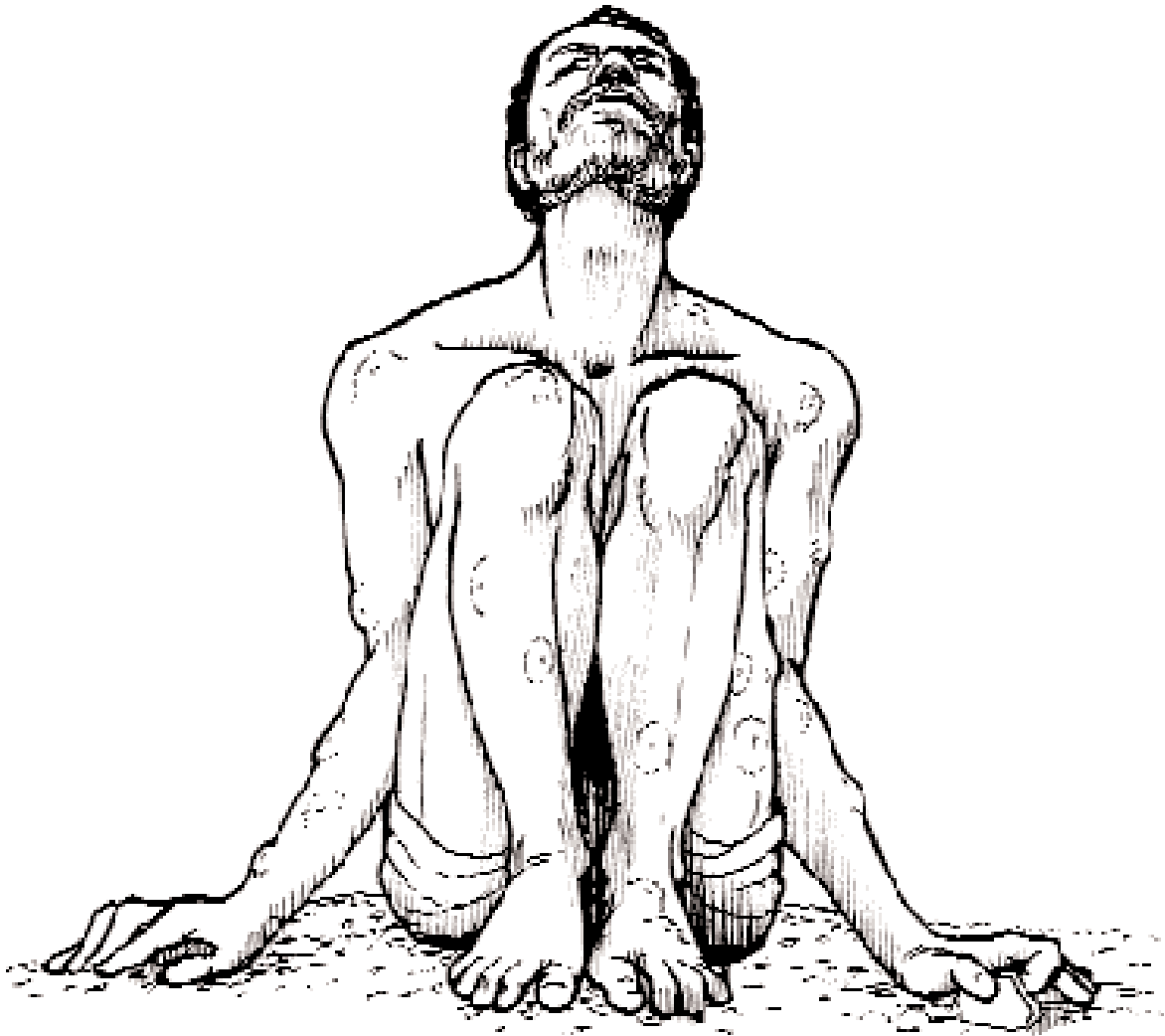
The devil was upset because Job was still praising God.

So he went to God and said, "If Job were hurting in his body, he would not praise you."

God answered the devil saying, "Do what you want but do not kill him."



So Satan was delighted in giving Job very painful sores all over his body from the soles of his feet to the top of his head. Job was so miserable and unhappy.



Job had nothing...

He lost his land...

He lost his livestock...

He lost his Sons and daughters.

Now he was in more pain with the sores all over his body.

Job suffered greatly.

But still, Job did not sin with his lips. He still trusted God.

Even Job's wife said to him, "Curse God and die. You are so miserable!"

But Job answered her, "You talk like a foolish woman. Do we only take the good and not the bad?"

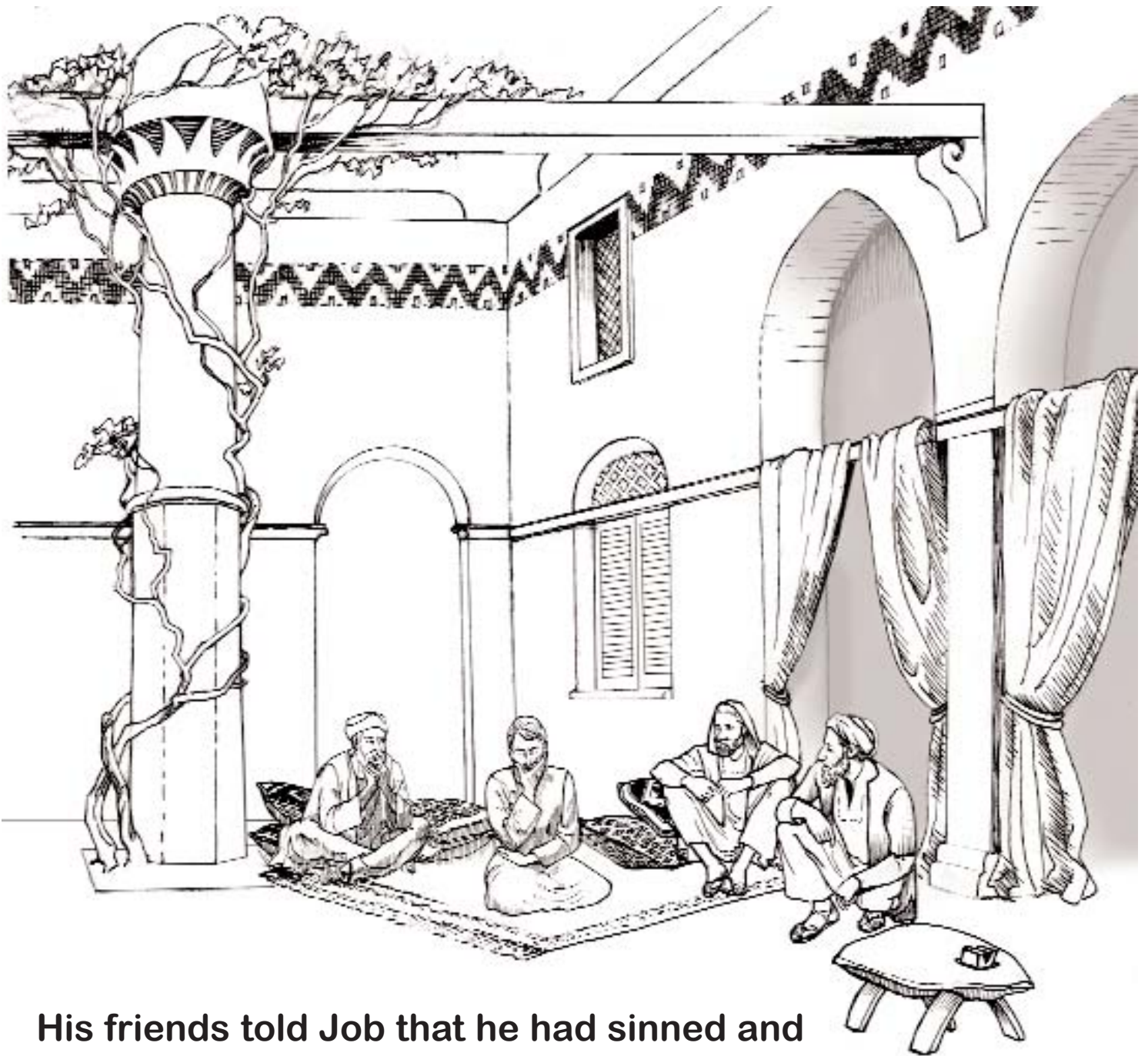


And still Job praised God!

Now when Job's three friends had heard about what had happened to Job, they decided they would go and be with him.

They saw Job's suffering was so great, they didn't even talk at first but sat quietly with Job for one week.



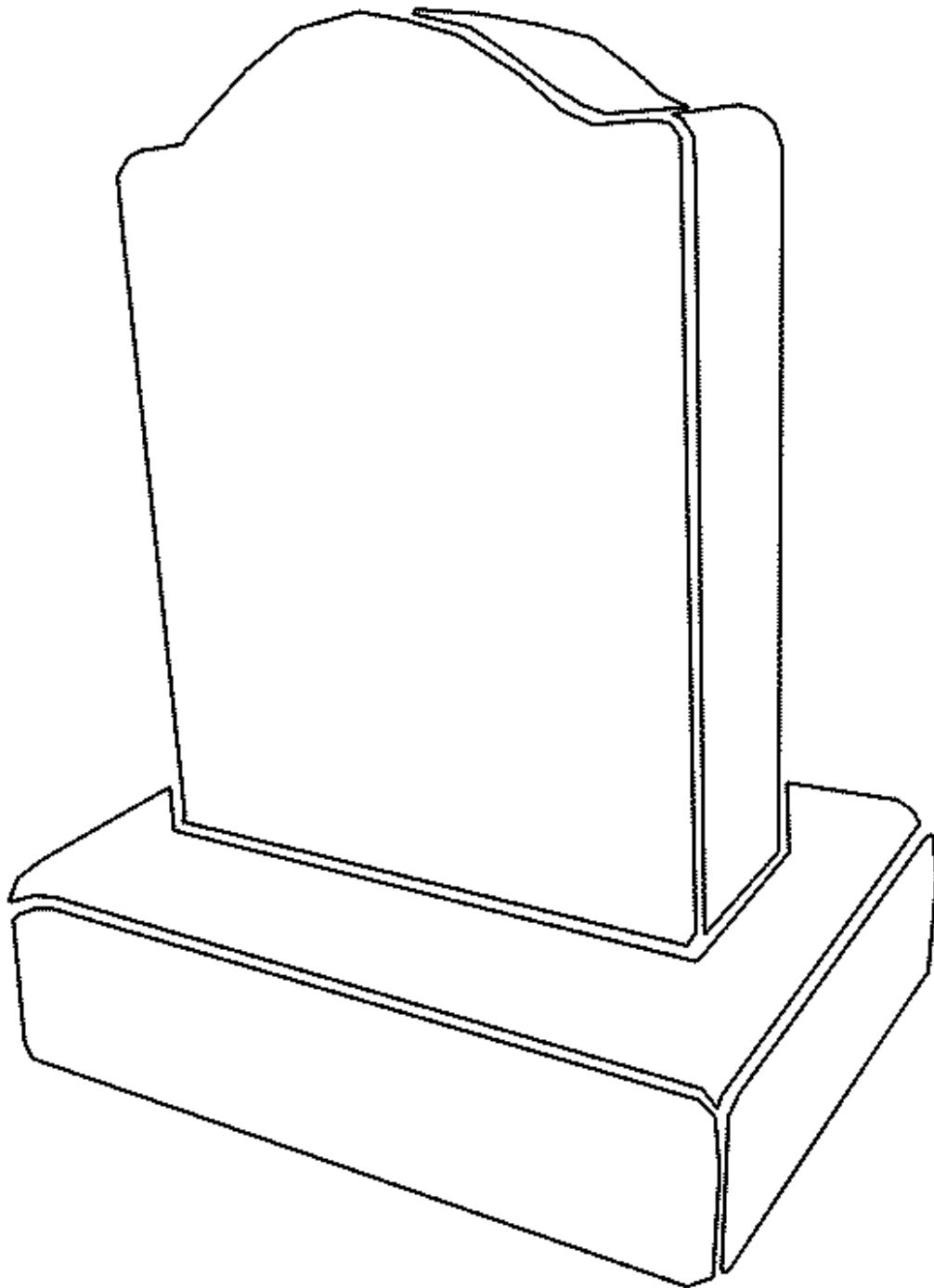


His friends told Job that he had sinned and that is why all these horrible things had happened.

But Job insisted that he loved God and he never turned against God. But they would not believe him. All of them told Job he had sinned and he must confess his sin to make things right. Job still insisted that he had not sinned against God.

Finally his friends were quiet. They had nothing to say to him because they felt that Job was wrong. They thought Job felt was better than everyone else. They were so sure that Job had sinned and wouldn't admit it.

Job was so miserable he prayed,
O that thou wouldest hide me in the grave,
that thou wouldest keep me secret,
until thy wrath be past,
[until the reign of sin and death should be ended]
that thou wouldest appoint me a set time,
and remember me [in the resurrection]!
Job 14:13



**If a man die, shall he live again?
all the days of my appointed time will I wait,
till my change come.
[In the resurrection!]**

**Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee:
[In the resurrection!]
thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands.
Job 14:14,15**



Finally, God spoke. God said:

**"Who is this that gives advice without knowledge?
Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?
Answer my questions if you have understanding!"**

God spoke to Job about the things He created.

God created the heavens, the earth and all that is on the earth.

What Holds the Earth Up?

**"[God] hangeth the earth on
nothing." — Job 26:7**



Three thousand years ago the Hindu scriptures recorded the earth was resting on the backs of several huge elephants. The elephants were resting on the back of a very large turtle that was swimming in a sea.

Greek mythology claims that the god Atlas was holding the earth on his shoulders.

But long ago, God told Job the Truth!!!

The earth is suspended in space. Nothing is holding it up. Job wrote about the same time the Hindu Scripture was written. How did Job know this scientific fact? Only God could have revealed this to Job.



God asked Job, “Who made the rules for rain, thunder and lightning?”

**"God made decrees [rules] for the rain.
And He set a way for the lightning of the thunder."
Job 28:26**

In ancient times, most religious scripture taught that lightning bolts were missiles thrown in anger by their gods. Since rain is so necessary to life, ancient people pondered what caused it. Some tried to stab holes in the clouds with spears. The Vedas (Hindu scripture) advised to tie a frog with its mouth open to the right tree and say the right words and rain would fall.

About 300 years ago, Galileo discovered the "rules for the rain" or water cycle that Job talked about. The sun evaporates water from the ocean. That water vapor rises and becomes clouds. This water in the clouds falls back to earth as rain, collects in streams and rivers and makes its way back to the ocean. That process repeats itself again and again.

Long before Jesus came to earth to give his life as a ransom for Adam and the human race, the scriptures in Job 33:24 mention that God will deliver the human race from the pit of death through a ransom, provided by Jesus.

“Then he is gracious unto him, and saith,
Deliver him from going down to the pit:
I have found a ransom.”

Job even knew the world would be given perfect healthy human bodies in the resurrection.

“His flesh shall be fresher than a child's:
he shall return to the days of his youth.”
Job 33:25



God asked Job:

**"Canst thou bind the sweet influence of the Pleiades...?"
Job 38:31**

The Pleiades is a beautiful galaxy of over 25,000 stars that travel through the universe together. None of them separate and go apart from one another.

This was exactly God's challenge to Job. Can you keep them bound together so that they remain as a family of stars forever? God can!!! Are you as great as God? NO!

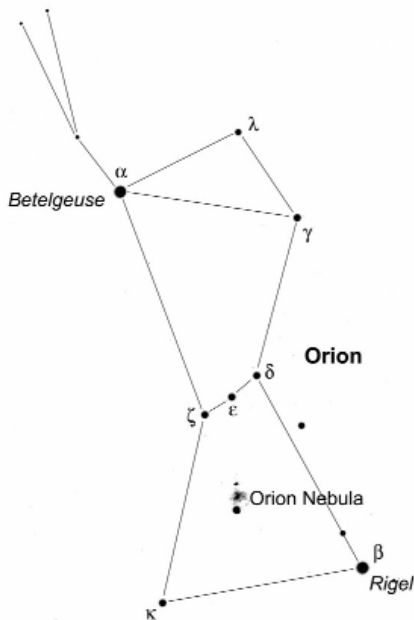


God asked Job:

"Canst thou...loose the bands of Orion?"
Job 38:31

Orion is a constellation of stars that outlines a hunter. His belt has 3 stars and are called "the bands of Orion." They are lined up as we see them in the night sky, but they are actually traveling in different directions in the universe.

God's challenge to Job was, can you "loose the bands of Orion," and separate the 3 stars? God can!!! Are you as great as God? NO!



God asked Job:

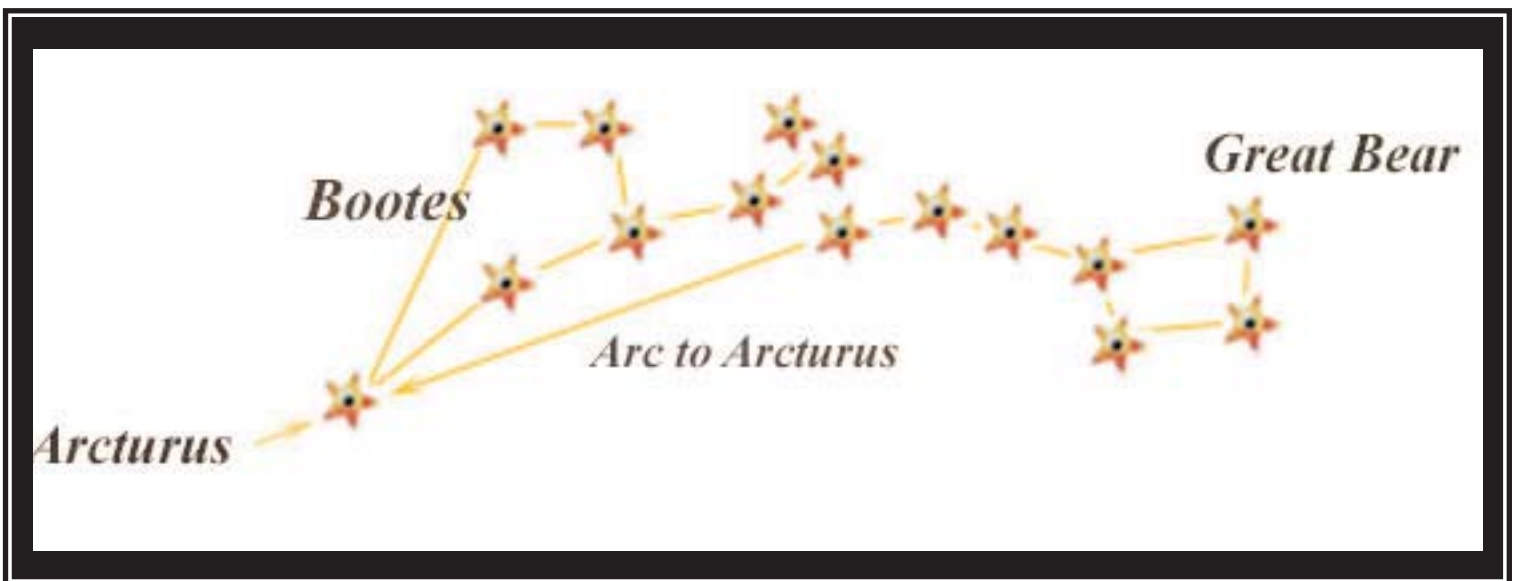
"Canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons?"

Job 38:32

Arcturus is one of the largest suns in the universe! And Arcturus is a runaway star! Our sun is traveling only 12½ miles a second, but Arcturus is traveling 257 miles a second. Can you imagine that?

Arcturus and his sons are individual runaway suns that seem to be out of orbit in our galaxy. Traveling at such immense speeds, why don't they crash with other suns or planets?

This was exactly God's challenge to Job. Can you keep Arcturus and his stars from crashing with other suns or planets? God can!!! Indeed they are not runaways. They will not crash. Why? God is guiding them. Are you as great as God? NO!



Then Job answered the LORD, and said,

**I know that thou canst do every thing,
and that no thought can be withheld from thee.
Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge?
therefore have I uttered that I understood not;
things too wonderful for me, which I knew not.**

**Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak:
I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me.
I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear:
but now mine eye seeth thee.**

Job 42:2-5

God said to Job's friends, "You have not spoken the truth of me as Job has. Take seven bulls and seven rams and go to Job and offer them up for yourselves. Job will pray for you and I will accept his prayer for you."

Fearing the wrath of God, the men did as God had told them. God accepted Job's prayer and was very pleased with Job.

As Job prayed for his friends, God returned his fortune that had been taken away by the devil.



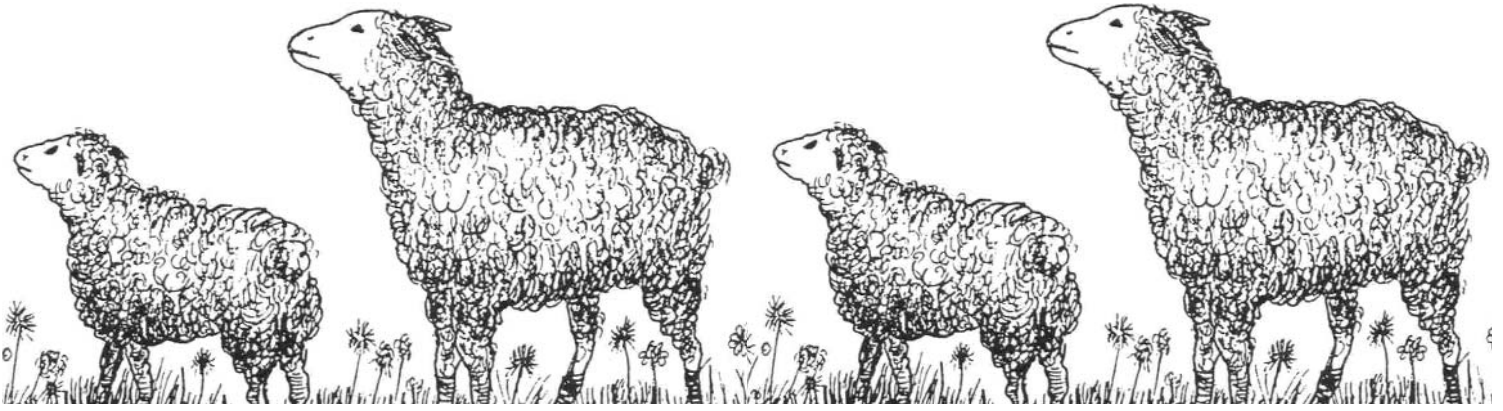
RESTITUTION FOR MANKIND PICTURED

At once Job's prosperity returned—his friends and influence were restored.

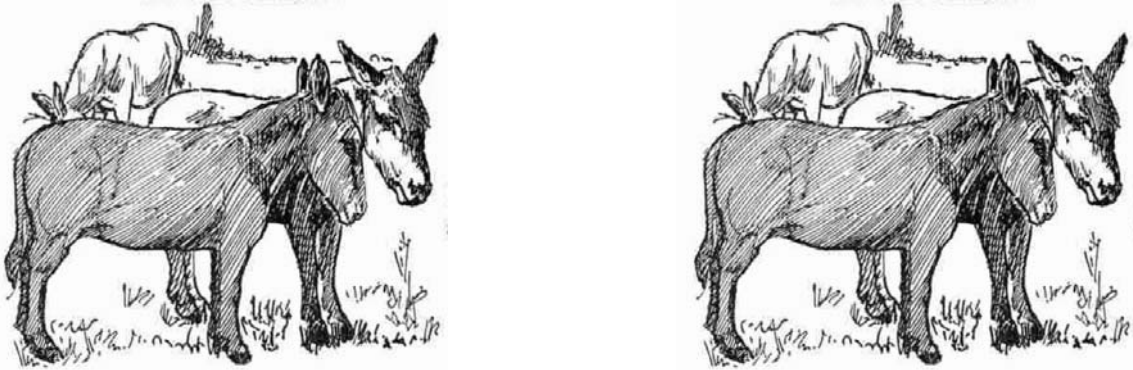
Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before. They ate bread with him in his house. They comforted him and each one gave Job a piece of money and a golden earring.



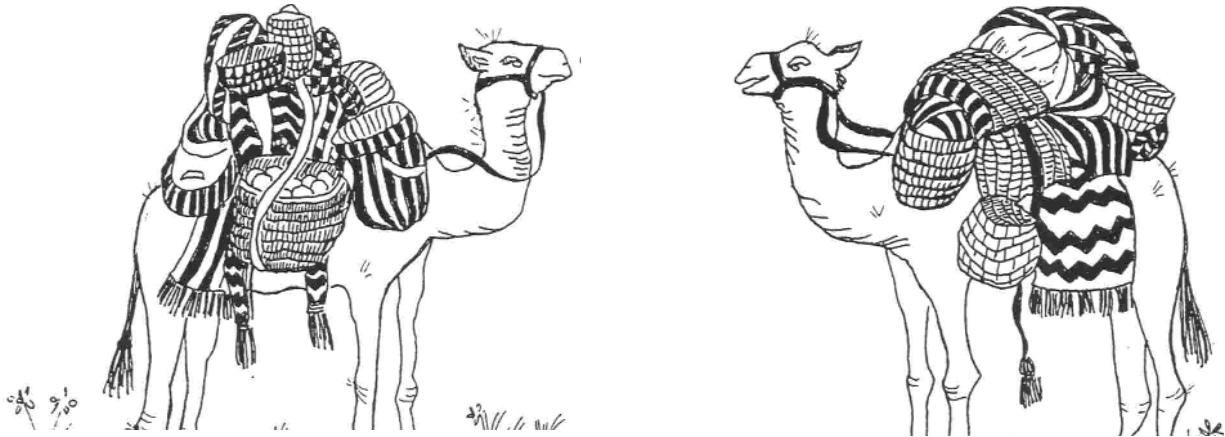
**God gave Job twice as much as he had in the beginning.
God gave him twice as many sheep—14,000 sheep!**



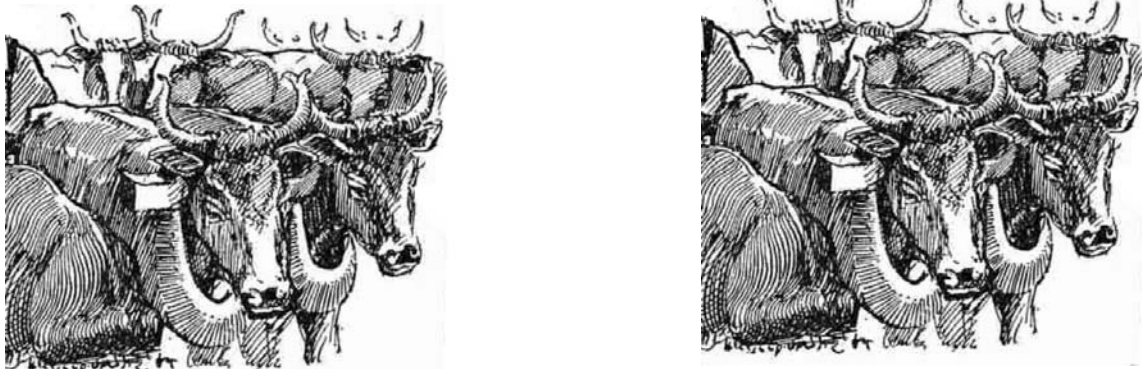
God gave him twice as many donkeys—1,000!



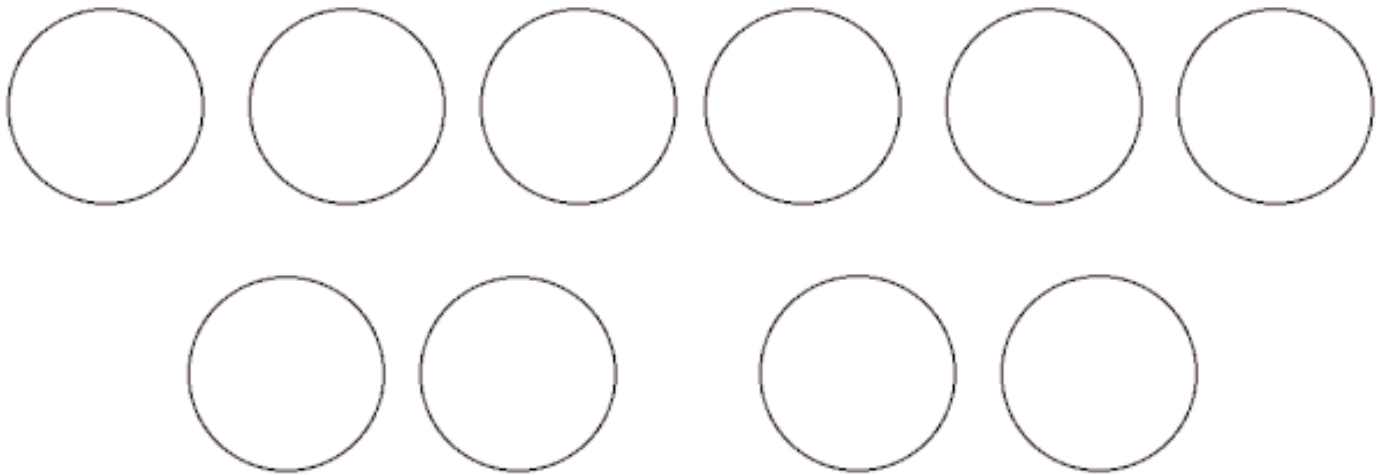
God gave him twice as many camels—6,000!



God gave him twice as many yoke of oxen—1,000!



**God gave him 7 sons and 3 daughters.
His daughters were the most beautiful in the land.**



After all of this, Job lived 140 years and he loved God and praised him every day.

Lessons:

God would teach us that we are not to attribute our calamities to him ... that they are merely permitted to come upon us for our testing and ultimately for the good of all whose faithfulness and integrity toward him are proved thereby.

The lesson furnished shows that, in the case of God's people at least, Satan's power is limited. He cannot destroy them at his will; he cannot touch them with adversity except as their God permits. R1779

Summary

The Book of Job discusses why innocent people suffer. God cares about people who suffer troubles. And God will help them, although sometimes they must be patient.

Job was a good man. But Job lost all his possessions. Job's children died. Job became so ill that he wanted to die. But Job refused to insult God.

Job's friends supposed that Job was ill because of his evil deeds. But Job was innocent. Then, a wise man named Elihu explained the truth to Job and his friends. And God proved to them that God is great. God also showed them that he cares. Finally, God wanted Job to pray for his friends. In the end, God made Job successful again.

This ending of Job's career with a general Restitution is incomprehensible to those who have never seen that the Plan of God in Christ provides for a "Time of Restitution" of all things lost in Adam, to all of his race who will accept them under the terms of the New Covenant. (Acts 3:19-21.) But those who do see this Plan of God can readily see, too, that Job's experience was not only actual, but also typical. He seems to represent mankind. Man was at first in the Divine likeness and favor, with all things subject to him. (Psalm 8:4-8.) Because of Adam's sin Satan obtained an influence in human affairs which has resulted in degradation, sickness and death. God, however, has never really forsaken His creatures, and is even now waiting to be gracious unto all in and through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lessons:

The Book of Job defends the absolute glory and perfection of God. It sets forth the theme echoed in Psa. 18:3 ("I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised").

God is deserving of our praise simply on the basis of who He is, apart from the blessings He bestows. Satan denied this (1:9-11), but Job proved him wrong (1:20-22; 2:10).

* The question of suffering is addressed — Why do we suffer? Who or what causes it? Why doesn't God do something? Not all questions are answered, but some important points are made:

— Man is unable to subject the painful experiences of human existence to a meaningful analysis — God's workings are beyond man's ability to fathom. Man simply cannot tie all the "loose ends" of the Lord's purposes together. We must learn to trust in God, no matter the circumstances.

— Suffering is not always the result of personal sin — The erroneous conclusion drawn by Job's friends is that suffering is always a consequence of sin. Job proves this is not the case.

— Suffering may be allowed as a compliment to one's spirituality

— God allowed Job to suffer to prove to Satan what kind of man he really was. What confidence God had in Job!

* The book paints a beautiful picture of "patience" — The Greek word is "hupomone", which describes the trait of one who is able to abide under the weight of trials. From the "patience of Job", we learn that it means to maintain fidelity to God, even under great trials in which we do not understand what is happening.

Speaking from a whirlwind, the Lord charges Job with darkening counsel by words without knowledge. A challenge is then made for Job to answer questions posed to him. A series of questions follow in rapid succession regarding the creation and nature that certainly contrast God's great power and wisdom with Job's limited ability and understanding.

A discourse begins with another challenge for Job to answer God's questions.

B. QUESTIONS POSED TO JOB (38:4-39:30)

- 1. Questions concerning the Creation (38:4-15)**
 - a. Related to the earth**
 - b. Related to the sea**
 - c. Related to the morning and dawn**
- 2. Questions concerning inanimate nature (38:16-38)**
 - a. Regarding the depths and expanses of the earth**
 - b. Regarding light and darkness**
 - c. Regarding weather, the scattering of light and wind**
 - d. Regarding the stars with their constellations**
 - e. Regarding the floods**
- 3. Questions concerning animate nature (38:39-39:30)**
 - a. Respecting the nourishment for lions and ravens**
 - b. Respecting mountain goats and deer**
 - c. Respecting the freedom of the wild donkey**
 - d. Respecting the strength of the wild ox**
 - d. Respecting the ostrich**
 - e. Respecting the horse in battle**
 - f. Respecting the flight of the hawk, and the nesting of the eagle**

II. JOB RESTORED, COMFORTED, AND BLESSED (42:10-17)

A. RESTORED BY GOD (42:10)

- 1. Upon praying for his friends, the Lord restores what he lost**
- 2. The Lord restored twice as much as he had lost**

B. COMFORTED BY HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS (42:11)

- 1. His brothers, sisters, and former acquaintances come to eat with him and comfort him**
 - a. Note that it says "for all the adversity the LORD had brought upon him"**
 - b. While Satan was the instigator of Job's suffering, the LORD bore ultimate responsibility by allowing Satan to test Job**
- 2. They each bring a piece of silver and ring of gold**

C. BLESSED BY GOD (42:12-17)

- 1. Job's latter days blessed more than his beginning**
- 2. His livestock is doubled (14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 yoke of oxen, 1,000 female donkeys)**
- 3. He is blessed with 7 sons and 3 beautiful daughters, the latter to whom he provided an inheritance along with their brothers**
- 4. He lived 140 years, saw descendants to the fourth generation, and died full of days**

The question which perplexed Job and confused his reasonings was the same that for centuries has confused others of God's people; namely,

Why does God permit evil (calamities, afflictions, etc.) to come upon His faithful servants?

Why are the wicked permitted to flourish?

But not until the Gospel Dispensation was it possible for any to know the mind of God on this subject; for it is one of the deep things which could be revealed only by the Spirit of God, and only to those begotten of that Spirit, as St. Paul explains. (1 Corinthians 2:9-14.) And the Holy Spirit was not thus given, as a guide and teacher, until after Christ had redeemed us and ascended up on High, there to present His sacrifice as the price of our return to Divine favor, peace and communion.

Although many are still in the dark on this subject, it is now open and clear to all the earnest ones to whom "it is granted to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven," to understand "the deep things of God." (Matthew 12:11; 1 Corinthians 2:10.)

These see that the reign of evil, the reign of Sin and Death, under Satan, the Prince of this world, is permitted for two reasons: first, that all men may gain a full experience of the exceeding sinfulness of sin and the bitterness of its legitimate fruit; and, second, that God's people may be fully tried and tested as to their loyalty to God in the shadow of affliction and trial, as well as in the sunshine of health and prosperity.

If we have difficulties, if we have persecutions, if we have troubles of any kind we should look to God. We should say:

This thing could not happen to me unless the Lord permitted it. We have come under special Divine care. God has promised that all things shall work together for good to us who are His children.

The lesson of trust is one of those difficult lessons for us to learn and apply—to realize that all of life's experiences are under Divine supervision and that nothing can happen to us but what is for our highest good. This is not now true of the world, but merely of God's family. By and by God will make all things work out blessings for the world.

It is in respect to these who are His children that all things now work for good. When we are in difficulty, we are to look up in confidence and trust to the Lord. Our Heavenly Father wishes us to exercise faith in Him.

St. Peter tells us that we are "kept by the power of God, through faith unto salvation." Therefore we greatly rejoice, even "though now for a season we are in heaviness through manifold trials" and temptations. "The trial of your faith is much more precious than that of gold that perisheth."
—1 Peter 1:5-7.

The Lord's people have a peace and rest of mind through the knowledge of the Lord's Plan, the knowledge of His Justice, Mercy and Love, and a blessed realization that He is our God. All these things give us peace and quiet and rest of mind. While the world are troubled more or less, God's children

have a peace that the world knows not of, that the world can neither give nor take away. And when the trials are all over, the Lord will make up for all the troubles of the present time, for all His children have suffered. We shall then look back on these trials and consider them but light afflictions, only for a moment.—2 Corinthians 4:17.

Eze 14:14 Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord GOD.

Jam 5:11 Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.