

[1-2]* a man **was** in land of **Uz** ["to devise"] (1:1)
 [3-4]* **Job** ["being treated an enemy," "turning," or other verb] (**was**) his name
 [5-9]* and (there) **became** – the **man**, the **that** – **blameless** and **upright** and **reverent** of God
 [10] and **turning aside** from evil
 [1-7] and (there) **were born** to him, **seven** sons
 [8-10] and **three** daughters
 [1-7]* and (there) **were**, his livestock, **seven thousand** of sheep
 [8-10]* and **three thousand** of camels
 [1-5] and **five hundred pair** of cattle
 [6-10] and **five hundred** female-donkeys
 [1-3] and **labor, great, very**
 [4-5]* and (there) **was** – the **man**, the **that** – greater than all sons of (the) East
 [ancient-times]
 [1-2] and (there) **would go**, his sons, and **make** a feast (at) house of a man (on) his **day**
 [3] and they **would send**
 [4-6] and they **would call** to (the) **three** of their sisters, **to eat** and **to drink** with them
 [7] and it **would be**
 [8] when (there) **were completed**, **days** of the feast
 [9-10] and (there) **would send**, Job, and **consecrate** them
 [1-2] and he **would rise early** in (the) **morning** and **offer burnt-offerings**, **number** of them all
 [3] because (there) **said**, Job,
 [4-5] perhaps (there) **sinned**, my sons, and 'blessed' [**cursed**] God in their heart
 [1] thus (there) **did**, Job, all the **days**

7000
3000
500
500

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[1] and it **was** the **day**
 [2-3] and (there) **came**, **sons** of God, **to present themselves** before YHWH
 [1] and (there) **came** also the **Satan** [adversary] in their midst
 [4] and (there) **said**, YHWH, to Satan
 [2] from where **have** you **come**
 [3-4] and (there) **answered**, Satan, YHWH, and **said**
 [5-6] from, **to roam** in earth and **to walk about** in her
 [5] and (there) **said**, YHWH, to Satan

This is a translation and a study of an excerpt from Job: Job 1:1-3. Following the PebbleCounting hypothesis, a numbering system appears to be inherent in the Ancient Hebrew and consistently used in this excerpt, as it is in other books of Scripture. This study is freely available at www.pebblecounting.com, along with studies/translations of other books of Scripture. If you haven't had a chance to watch it, the "Intro to PebbleCounting" video is a good place to begin.

English translation, font coloring, arrangement of subject columns and literary sets, literary element counts, and notes: © Steve, 2025. Update: September 22, 2025. PebbleCounting hypothesis: © Steve, 2024-2025.

"a man was in land of Uz... Job (was) his name" | The completeness of this opening tenfold literary set is dependent upon both the place name *Uz* and the person name *Job* being verb forms, which increases their lines from one to two elements, respectively. The opening literary set cannot be reduced to fivefold. Following the focus on Job's name meaning here, his name will be counted simply as a name, not as a verb form.

"and (there) became – the man, the that – blameless and upright and reverent of God" | The completeness of the opening tenfold set is also dependent upon this verb being translated "became" rather than "was." The translation *became* allows the subject (*the man, the that*) to be counted and the predicate adjectives (*blameless, upright, and reverent*) to be counted. When the sense of the being verb is *becoming*, the predicate serves as an appositive that restates the subject with a new identity – hence the increased count. It appears this nuanced meaning was important to the author of Job. The narrative that follows locks the literary sets into a 7+3, 7+3, 5+5 pattern that cannot be sequenced any other way. This literary design forces the opening set to tenfold, which forces the translation of the being verb to *became*. This translation, which falls within the semantic range of the being verb, emphasizes the process of Job's sanctification. His relative righteousness was not a static reality. It was a process. That same process will proceed further in the course of this narrative.

"seven thousand... three thousand... five hundred... five hundred... greater than all sons of (the) East [ancient times]" | The sequencing of these numbers may echo the macrostructure of antediluvian and postdiluvian forefathers of Genesis. See the Genesis study for the 6000+1000=7000-fold antediluvian forefathers and the 3000-fold postdiluvian forefathers. See Noah for a 500 + 500 stature (Gen. 6:8). By literary echo, Job may be compared to these ancients for his wealth acquisition and family size.

[7-8] have you **set** to your heart upon My **servant, Job** –
 [2] that **there is not** like him, in earth, a **man**:
 [3-4] **blameless** and **upright**
 [5-6] **reverent** of God and **turning away** from evil?
 [9-10] and (there) **answered**, Satan, YHWH, and **said**
 [7] for nothing, **does** (there) **fear**, Job, God?
 [6] **have not** You **hedged** –
 [8-10] about **him** and about his **house** and about **all** which (**is**) to him – from all
 around?
 [1-2] work of his hands (**two**) –
 [7] You **have blessed**
 [3] and his livestock **have increased** on earth
 [8-9] but **send**, now, Your hand and **touch** against all
 [4] which (**is**) to him –
 [5] if not, against Your faces, he will ‘bless’ [**curse**] You!
 [10] and (there) **said**, YHWH, to Satan
 [1] behold, all which (**is**) to him –
 [1] (**is**) in your hand
 [2] only, to him, **do not send out** your hand
 [3] and (there) **went out**, Satan, from with faces of YHWH
 [2] and it **was** the **day**
 [3-4] and his **sons** and his **daughters were eating** and **drinking** wine in house of
 their brother,
 [5] the **oldest**
 [6-7] and a messenger **came** to Job and **said**
 [8] the cattle **were plowing**
 [9-10] and the female-donkeys **were feeding** upon their hands (**two**)
 [4-5]* and (there) **fell**, Sabeans and **took** them
 [6] and the youths, they **struck** to mouth of sword
 [1-3] and **I escaped** – only I! – myself **alone!** – **to declare** to you!
 [4] still, this [**one**] **was speaking** –
 [5-6] and this [**one**] **came** and **said**
 [7] fire of God **fell** from the heavens
 [8-9] and it **burned** at **sheep** and at **youths**
 [10] and it **consumed** them!
 [7-9] and **I escaped** – only I! – myself, **alone!** – **to declare** to you
 [10] still, this [**one**] **was speaking**
 [1-2] and this [**one**] **came** and **said**

“and (there) fell, Sabeans and took them” | Judging by the completeness and flow of literary sets, it appears these adversaries are modeled in the same subject column as *the Satan* (“the adversary”).

[1-3] Chaldeans placed three groups and raided upon the camels

[4] and they took them

[5] and the youths, they struck to mouth of sword!

[3-5] and I escaped – only I! – myself alone! – to declare to you

[6] still, this [one] was speaking

[7-8] and this [one] came and said

[9-10] your sons and your daughters were eating and drinking wine in house of their brother –

[1] the oldest –

[1-2] and behold, a wind, great, came from across the wilderness

[3-6] and it struck against (the) four corners of the house

[7]* and it fell upon the youths

[2] and they died

[3-5] and I escaped – only I! – myself alone! – to declare to you

[1] and (there) arose, Job

[2] and he tore his robe

[3] and he shaved his head

[4] and he fell to the ground

[5] and he worshiped!

[6] and he said

[7] naked, I came out from belly of my mother

[8] and naked, I shall return there

[1] YHWH has given

[2] and YHWH has taken away

[3] let (there) be, name of YHWH, being blessed!

[9] in all this, (there) did not sin, Job

[10] and he did not charge fault toward God

(1:22)

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“and it fell upon the youths” | This literary set sequencing may need to be adjusted depending on the literary elements that arise in this subject column in chapter 2.