

THE BOOK OF JOB IN METRE

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The Book of Job in Metre by Job

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JOB

**THE BOOK OF
JOB IN METRE**

THE BOOK OF JOB

In Metre,

ACCORDING TO THE MOST APPROVED
COMMENTARIES.

"Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage."

PSALM cxix. 54.



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THE BOOK OF JOB,

IN METRE.



CHAPTER I.

- 1 THERE lived in Asian land, of yore,
A man whose name was Job. He bore
A fame unspotted ; justice swayed
His conduct, piety arrayed
His mind with beauty in the sight
Of God, and marked him most upright.
- 2 To him was born a family
Of seven sons and daughters three.
- 3 His substance, too, was thousands seven
Of fleecy ewes ; a-field were driven
Five hundred yoke of oxen fair ;
Three thousand camels, taught to bear
The load, were his ; and asses she
Five hundred of the best had he ;
Besides a household very great ;
So that this man excelled in state,
And riches, righteousness, and fame,
The greatest men of eastern name.

JOB I.

- 4 His sons now joined the feast, which they
Gave every one upon his day,
And sent and called their sisters three
To share in their festivity.
- 5 And when the festive course was run
Transferred from house of son to son,
Next came the part of Job withal,
To send and sanctify them all.
- He, rising with the morning light,
Began the sacrificial rite,
For every one an offering made,
And on the burning altar laid.
- For it may be, so Job expressed
His fears, my children have transgressed,
And cursed God within their heart.
Of Job this was the constant part.
- 6 The sons of God now on a day
Appeared before the Lord, to pay
Homage and thanks to him, and who
But Satan came among them too.
- 7 And thus the Lord to Satan, chief
Of spirits, put inquiry brief;
Whence comest thou? When thus the foe
Replied: From going to and fro
On earth, where up and down I stray.
- 8 The Lord to Satan then did say;
Hast thou my servant Job beheld,
Whom none has in the earth excelled,
A perfect man, and upright still,
Who feareth God, and escheweth ill?
- 9 Then Satan out this answer brought;
Is all his fear of God for nought?

JOB I.

- 10 Hast Thou not with Almighty arm
Protected Job from every harm,
And all his house, his folds and fields,
Enclosed as with a thousand shields ?
His labour Thou, and care hast blest,
And in the land his wealth increased.
- 11 But put forth Thine afflicting hand,
And all these blessings countermand,
And to Thy face he'll curse Thee then.
- 12 The Lord to Satan said again ;
With all he hath do as thou may,
But on himself no evil lay.
Forth from the presence of the Lord
Departed Satan with this word.
- 13 Now on a day it did befall,
When his sons and his daughters all,
A-feasting were with wine and mirth,
Around their eldest brother's hearth ;
- 14 There came an evil messenger
To Job, and said ; The oxen were
A ploughing all, and all in flocks
The ass was feeding by the ox,
- 15 When rose the Sabeans, and away
Did take them ; yea, the servants they
With the sword slew ; and I alone
Escaped to tell thee what is done.
- 16 Ere he had ended speaking, lo !
Another with his tale of woe.
From heaven the fire of God, he cried,
Is fallen, and the sheep have died,
And servants ; only I alone
Escaped to tell thee what is done.
- 17 Ere he had ended speaking, lo !
Another messenger of woe.

JOB I., II.

- Three bands, said he, of Chaldean foes,
Divided, on the camels rose,
And bore them off; the servants, too,
They with the sword of battle slew;
And I only am left, as one
Escaped to tell thee what is done.
- 18 Ere he had ended speaking, lo!
Another with a tale of woe
More piteous still. Thy sons, said he,
And daughters all were feasting free,
Their eldest brother's house into,
- 19 When from the wilderness there blew
A whirlwind great; the house it took,
And all the corners round it shook;
Next moment on the youths it fell,
And only I escaped to tell.
- 20 Then Job arose, his mantle rent,
And shaved his head, and fell intent
Down on the ground, and worshipped;
And thus the pious sufferer said:
- 21 Naked as from the womb I came,
I thither shall return the same.
Jehovah gave, and doth reclaim;
Then blessed be Jehovah's name.
- 22 Job sinned not a word in this,
Nor charged the living God amiss.

CHAPTER II.

- 1 AGAIN there was a meeting day,
When came the sons of God, to pay
Him praise and thanks; nor errandless,
Was Satan absent from the place,
But all amid the holy band,
In presence of the Lord did stand.

JOB II.

- 2 The Lord the same inquiry now
To Satan put; Whence comest thou?
When Satan briefly, as before,
Replied; and thus his answer bore.
I make the globe of earth my home,
And up and down in it I roam.
- 3 The Lord then Satan thus addressed,
And thus his insolence repressed.
Hast thou my servant Job beheld,
Whom none has in the earth excelled,
A perfect man, and upright still,
Who feareth God, and escheweth ill?
And yet he his integrity
Retaineth, though thou movedst me
Against him, to destroy him, even
Without a show of reason given.
- 4 Then Satan answer did begin
In terms of traffic; Skin for skin;
A man will part with all his wealth,
Still to enjoy his life and health.
- 5 But thy correcting hand apply,
And to his bone and flesh come nigh,
He to thy face will curse thee then.
- 6 The Lord to Satan said again;
Lo, he is at thy power and will,
But with no mortal stroke to kill.
- 7 So from the face of God away
Went Satan forth without delay,
And wounded Job with boils and gore,
From head to foot bespattered o'er.
- 8 And he, to scrape himself withal,
O'erwhelmed with plague, and stench, and
gall,
A broken piece of potsherd gat,
And down among the ashes sat.