

Job's Children

Job 1

by Don Falkos

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Job was a man who feared God and did all he could to avoid evil. He had seven sons and three daughters and was the richest man around.

Job's sons took turns preparing banquets for the seven brothers and their three sisters. Once each brother had hosted a feast, Job would purify his children, providing a burnt offering for each of them, just in case they had done anything wrong during their reveries. Then the cycle of banquets would begin again, starting with the oldest brother.

One day the Lord asked an angel, "Have you considered my servant Job? He is a man of complete integrity."

The angel, whose view was contrary to the Lord's, said. "Of course! You've always protected him. But take away everything he has and he will curse you to your face!"

"All right," said the Lord, "Test him. Do whatever you want with his possessions, but don't harm the man himself."

Then one day a series of messengers came to Job. "Your oxen and donkeys have been stolen and all the farmhands killed."

"All your sheep and their shepherds have been struck by lightning and killed."

"Your camels have all been stolen and their keepers killed."

Then came the worst news of all, "Your sons and daughters were feasting in their oldest brother's home. Suddenly, a powerful wind swept down on the house. It collapsed, and all your children are dead." Job tore his robe in grief.

In spite of everything, Job did not blame God for what had happened. "The Lord gave me all I had, and the Lord has taken it away. Praise the Lord!"