OLD TESTAMENT · POETRY AND WISDOM · BOOK 18 OF 66

Job

Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him (13:15)

42	Moses	c. 2000 B.C.	Uz
Chapters, 1,070 Verses	The Writer	Age of the Patriarchs	Job's Home (1:1)

STRUCTURE

The Book in Four Parts

The book opens and closes as a story; between them stand the speeches of Job, his friends, Elihu and the LORD.



Each bar shows that part's share of the 1,070 verses.

I 1–14 · 334 verses

The Testing

Two tests in heaven, Job's losses, the first round of speeches.

II 15–28 · 329 verses

The Debate

Two more rounds, "my redeemer liveth," where wisdom is found.

III 29–37 · 261 verses

Job and Elihu

Job's oath of innocence and Elihu's four speeches.

IV 38–42 · 146 verses

The LORD Speaks

Out of the whirlwind; Job repents and is restored.

WHO'S WHO

The People of the Book

Job, his wife, four men who speak to him, the adversary, and the LORD Himself.

1:1

Job

"Perfect and upright," the greatest of all the men of the east.

2:9

Job's Wife

"Curse God, and die."

4–22

Eliphaz the Temanite

The eldest friend; speaks of a vision in the night.

8–25

Bildad the Shuhite

Holds to the wisdom of the fathers.

11–20

Zophar the Naamathite

The bluntest of the three.

32–37

Elihu the Buzite

A young man who waited until the others were silent.

1:6–12

Satan

The adversary who accuses Job before God.

38:1

The LORD

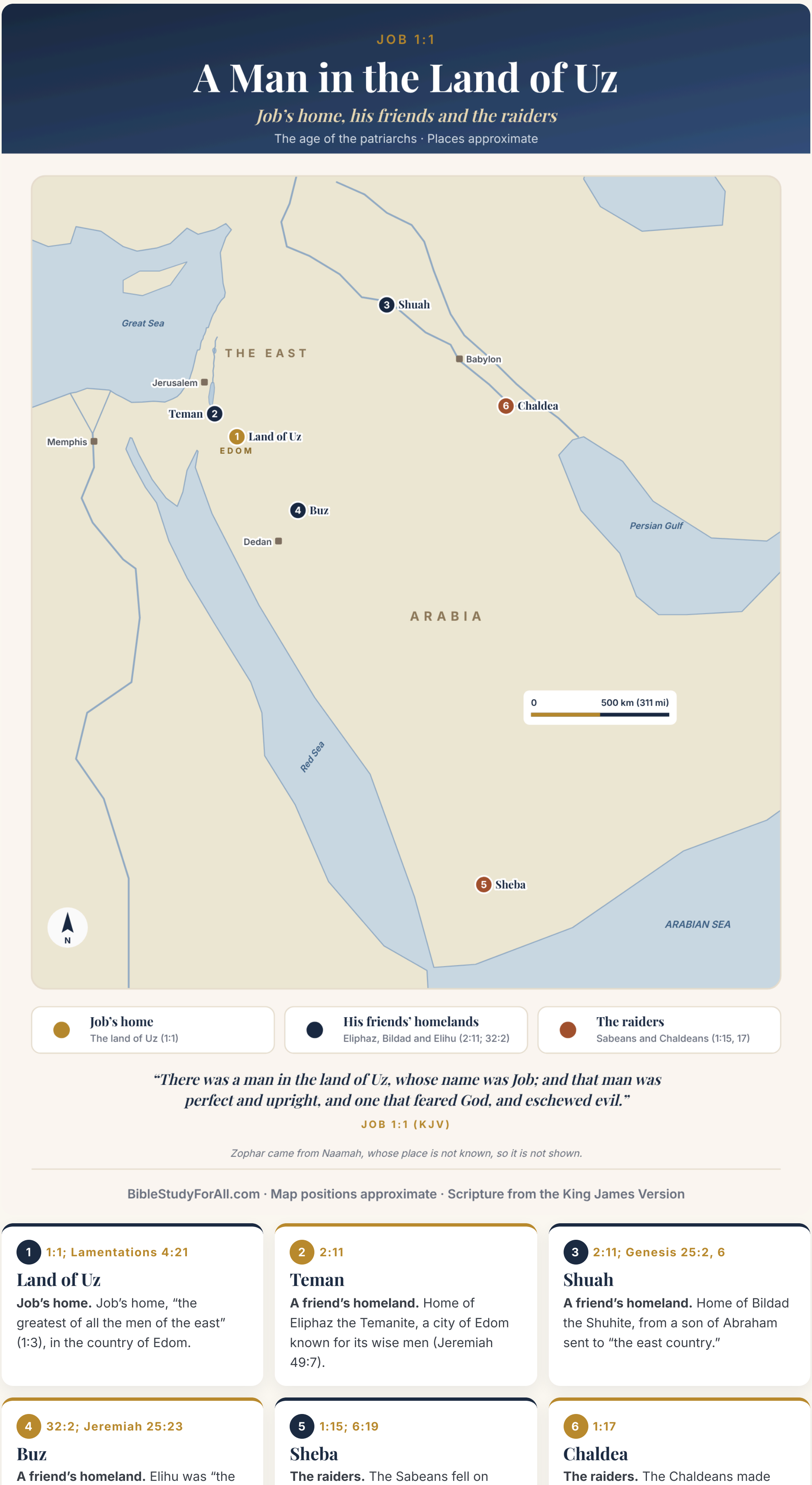
Speaks at last out of the whirlwind.

A Man in the Land of Uz

MAP

A Man in the Land of Uz

Job lived in the land of Uz, in the country of Edom (Lamentations 4:21). Gold marks Job's home, navy his friends' homelands, and rust the raiders who took his flocks. The numbers match the cards below.



"There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil."

JOB 1:1 (KJV)

Zophar came from Naamah, whose place is not known, so it is not shown.

1 1:1; Lamentations 4:21

Land of Uz

Job's home. Job's home, "the greatest of all the men of the east" (1:3), in the country of Edom.

2 2:11

Teman

A friend's homeland. Home of Eliphaz the Temanite, a city of Edom known for its wise men (Jeremiah 49:7).

3 2:11; Genesis 25:2, 6

Shuah

A friend's homeland. Home of Bildad the Shuhite, from a son of Abraham sent to "the east country."

4 32:2; Jeremiah 25:23

Buz

A friend's homeland. Elihu was "the Buzite," a people named with Dedan and Tema in Arabia.

5 1:15; 6:19

Sheba

The raiders. The Sabeans fell on Job's oxen and asses and slew the servants.

6 1:17

Chaldea

The raiders. The Chaldeans made three bands and carried away Job's camels.

JOB AT A GLANCE · PART 3 OF 6

Two Tests and Three Rounds of Speeches

JOB 1–2

Two Tests

Satan claimed that Job served God only for what he got. In one day Job lost everything, and then his health.

1:14–15
Oxen and Asses
Taken by the Sabeans

1:16
Sheep
Burned by the fire of God from heaven

1:17
Camels
Carried away by the Chaldeans

1:18–19
Ten Children
A great wind struck the house

> *"Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."*
>
> Job 1:21 (KJV)

2:7
Sore Boils
From the sole of his foot unto his crown.

2:10
Job's Answer
"Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?"

JOB 4–31

Three Rounds of Speeches

Each friend speaks and Job answers each one. The friends grow harsher as Job holds to his integrity.

1 4–14
First Round
Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar each speak; Job answers each one.

2 15–21
Second Round
The friends warn of the fate of the wicked; Job answers.

3 22–31
Third Round
Eliphaz and a short word from Bildad; Job's closing defence.

What the Friends Believed

God always blesses the righteous and punishes the wicked in this life, so Job must have sinned. "Who ever perished, being innocent?" (4:7). God Himself said they had "not spoken of Me the thing that is right" (42:7).

Job's Cries of Faith and Where Wisdom Is Found

JOB 9–23

Job's Cries of Faith

In his darkest days Job still reached out to God, and his hope grew as the debate went on.

9:33
A Daysman
Someone to stand between God and man.

13:15
I Will Trust
"Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him."

14:14
Live Again?
"If a man die, shall he live again?"

16:19
My Witness
"Behold, my witness is in heaven."

19:25
My Redeemer
"I know that my redeemer liveth."

23:10
As Gold
"When He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold."

> *"For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God."*
>
> Job 19:25–26 (KJV)

JOB 28; 32–37

Where Shall Wisdom Be Found?

Men dig deep for silver and gold, but only God knows the way to wisdom. Then young Elihu speaks of God's greatness.

> *"Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding."*
>
> Job 28:28 (KJV)

32:8
A Spirit in Man
Understanding comes from the inspiration of the Almighty.

33:14
God Speaketh
"Once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not."

34:10
God Is Just
"Far be it from God, that He should do wickedness."

37:23
God Is Great
"Touching the Almighty, we cannot find Him out."

JOB AT A GLANCE · PART 5 OF 6

Out of the Whirlwind, Job Restored and Christ in Job

JOB 38–41

Out of the Whirlwind

God does not explain Job's suffering. He shows Job His wisdom and power in all He has made.

38:4
The Earth
"Where wast thou when I laid the foundations?"

38:8–11
The Sea
"Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further"

38:31
The Stars
Pleiades and Orion

38:22
The Snow
The treasures of the snow and hail

38:39–39:30
Wild Animals
Lion, goat, ass, horse, hawk, eagle

40:15
Behemoth
"He is the chief of the ways of God"

41:1
Leviathan
No man can draw him out with a hook

42:2
Job's Answer
"I know that Thou canst do every thing"

> *"I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth Thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes."*
>
> Job 42:5–6 (KJV)

JOB 42

The End of the Lord

"Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord" (James 5:11).

42:7–9
Friends Rebuked
They must offer seven bullocks and seven rams

42:10
Job Prays
The LORD turned his captivity when he prayed for his friends

42:10, 12
Twice as Much
14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 yoke of oxen

42:13–17
A New Family
Seven sons, three daughters, 140 more years

LOOKING FORWARD

Christ in Job

Job longed for someone to stand between him and God. That longing is answered in Jesus Christ.

9:33 · 1 TIMOTHY 2:5
The Daysman
"There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

19:25 · TITUS 2:13–14
The Living Redeemer
Christ gave Himself to redeem us, and He will stand upon the earth.

16:19 · HEBREWS 7:25
A Witness in Heaven
Christ "ever liveth to make intercession" for His people.

42:10 · LUKE 23:34
Praying for Others
Job prayed for the friends who wronged him, as Christ prayed for those who crucified Him.

Key Themes and Key Verse

BIG IDEAS

Key Themes

God Is Sovereign
He gives and He takes away.
1:21; 42:2

Faith in Suffering
Trusting God without the answers.
13:15; 23:10

The Redeemer
Job's hope beyond the grave.
19:25–26

Wrong Comfort
Suffering is not always punishment.
16:2; 42:7

Honest Prayer
Bringing every complaint to God.
3:3; 23:3

True Wisdom
The fear of the Lord.
28:28

God's Greatness
Seen in all He has made.
38:4; 40:15

Humility
I abhor myself, and repent.
42:5–6

God's Mercy
The Lord is very pitiful.
42:10; James 5:11

KEY VERSE

"For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God."

Job 19:25–26 (KJV)