

Job 1:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

Analysis

God's permission to Satan includes both authorization and limits: 'all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand.' This establishes God's absolute sovereignty—Satan operates only within divinely imposed boundaries. The verse refutes dualism and affirms monotheism: God alone is sovereign. The limitation reveals divine compassion—God doesn't abandon Job to unlimited suffering but carefully controls the test's parameters. This theological principle appears throughout Scripture: God uses even evil for His purposes (Genesis 50:20, Romans 8:28).

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern religions often portrayed divine conflicts with chaos forces or rival deities. Job's monotheism stands distinct: Satan isn't an equal opponent but a created being requiring divine permission. This theological precision influenced later Jewish and Christian demonology. The passage's literary structure demonstrates that visible earthly suffering has invisible spiritual dimensions.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does knowing that Satan requires God's permission to test us provide comfort during trials?
2. What does God's setting of limits on Job's suffering teach about divine compassion within permitted testing?

Interlinear Text

לוֹ אֲשֶׁר כֹּל הַבָּשָׂר | אֶל יְהוָה יְיָ אֶתְרָה

said

And the LORD

H413

So Satan

H2009

H3605

אֲשֶׁר

לֹ

H0

H559

H3068

H7854

בְּכָל כֹּל

בְּכָל כֹּל

Behold all that he hath is in thy power

H7535

H413

H408

H3027

תָּשַׁל כָּל

בְּכָל

וַיֵּצֵא

only upon himself put not forth

H7971

Behold all that he hath is in thy power

H3027

went forth

H3318

מִעֵד כָּל בְּכָל

בְּכָל מִ

יְהוָה:

So Satan

H5973

from the presence

H6440

And the LORD

H3068

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 12:7 (Parallel theme): And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (Parallel theme): There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Isaiah 27:8 (Parallel theme): In measure, when it shooteth forth, thou wilt debate with it: he stayeth his rough wind in the day of the east wind.

John 19:11 (Parallel theme): Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.

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