

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

Psalms 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

וַיֹּאמֶר	יְהוָה:	אֵל	הַשָּׂטָן	הֵן ה	כָּל	אֲשֶׁר	לוֹ
said	And the LORD	H413	So Satan	H2009	H3605	H834	H0
H559	H3068		H7854				
	יְדָבֵר		אֵל	אֵל יוֹ	בִּק		
	Behold all that he hath is in thy power		H7535	H413	H408		
	H3027						
	תִּשָּׁלַח		יְדָבֵר		וַיֵּצֵא		
	only upon himself put not forth		Behold all that he hath is in thy power		went forth		
	H7971		H3027		H3318		
	יָמֵם	פְּנֵי י	יְהוָה:				
	So Satan	from the presence	And the LORD				
	H5973	H6440	H3068				
	H7854						

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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