

Job 1:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

Analysis

God's question 'Whence comest thou?' is not seeking information but establishing Satan's limited authority. The adversary can only 'go to and fro' and 'walk up and down' - restless activity without ultimate power. Satan's roaming earth seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8) is depicted here as subject to divine interrogation.

Historical Context

The dialogue format reflects ancient legal proceedings where defendants must give account. God's sovereignty over Satan's movements anticipates the New Testament teaching that temptation is always limited by divine permission (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Satan's limited authority encourage you in spiritual warfare?
2. What does this passage teach about God's control over evil?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	יְהוָה	אֶל	הַשָּׁטָן	מִן	תְּבָא	וְעַ
and said	And the LORD	H413	thou Then Satan	Whence	comest	answered
H559	H3068		H7854	H370	H935	H6030
אַת	הַשָּׁטָן	וַיֹּאמֶר	מִשְׁׁוּם	בְּאָרֶץ		
thou Then Satan	H853	And the LORD	and said	From going to and fro	in the earth	
H7854		H3068	H559	H7751	H776	
וּמְהֻתְּבֵל	בָּהּ					
and from walking up and down	H1980	H0				

Additional Cross-References

1 Peter 5:8 (Kingdom): Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Job 2:2 (Kingdom): And the LORD said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

Matthew 12:43 (Kingdom): When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none.

Revelation 20:8 (Parallel theme): And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

2 Kings 5:25 (Parallel theme): But he went in, and stood before his master. And Elisha said unto him, Whence comest thou, Gehazi? And he said, Thy servant went no whither.

