

Job 1:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

Analysis

God's question to Satan introduces the central conflict. The phrase 'Hast thou considered' (sam libbeka, שָׁמַת לְבָבֶךָ) literally means 'Have you set your heart/mind upon'—God directs Satan's attention to Job. The divine description repeats verse 1's language about Job being 'perfect and upright.' The phrase 'there is none like him in the earth' establishes Job's unique righteousness. This sets up Satan's accusation: does Job serve God freely or only for benefits? The text reveals God's sovereign control—Satan can only act with divine permission, bound by limits God sets.

Historical Context

The heavenly council scene (1:6-12) reflects ancient Near Eastern imagery where divine beings present themselves before the sovereign deity. Satan (ha-satan, הַשָּׁטָן) means 'the adversary,' appearing with the definite article suggesting a role or title. This dialogue format demonstrates that earthly events have heavenly dimensions—Job's suffering involves cosmic stakes regarding whether creatures can love God for Himself.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does understanding that our faithfulness has cosmic significance affect how we view trials?
2. What does God's confidence in Job teach us about how He views His faithful servants even when allowing testing?

Interlinear Text

עַל לְבָבְךָ אָמַר יְהוָה אֵל פְּשָׁת | בְּשָׁמֶת
said And the LORD H413 unto Satan H7854 Hast thou considered H7760 H3820 H5921

בְּאָנָּךְ כִּי אֵין כָּמָה הוּא בְּעֵבֶד
my servant Job H3588 H347 H3644 that there is none like him in the earth H776 H776

אֵלֶּה יְמֵינֶךָ אֵלֶּה יְמֵינֶךָ
man a perfect and an upright one that feareth God and escheweth
H376 H8535 H3477 H3373 H430 H5493

מְבָעָה

evil

H7451

Additional Cross-References

Job 2:3 (Evil): And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that

feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.

Job 1:1 (Evil): 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.

Isaiah 1:16 (Evil): Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;

Proverbs 8:13 (Evil): The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

Job 8:20 (Evil): Behold, God will not cast away a perfect man, neither will he help the evil doers:

2 Kings 23:25 (References Lord): And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him.

Psalms 84:11 (References God): For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

Numbers 12:3 (Parallel theme): (Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)

Isaiah 42:1 (Parallel theme): Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

Psalms 37:27 (Evil): Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore.