

Job 1:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?

Analysis

Satan's question probes the foundation of genuine faith: does Job fear God for His own sake, or merely for the benefits received? The Hebrew 'chinnam' (for nothing/freely) is crucial—true saving faith perseveres without earthly reward. This challenges the prosperity gospel and affirms Reformed theology's emphasis on God's glory as faith's ultimate object. Satan cannot comprehend worship without self-interest, revealing his fundamental incomprehension of grace.

Historical Context

The divine council scene parallels Ancient Near Eastern court imagery but reveals YHWH's absolute sovereignty over all spiritual beings, including Satan, who must request permission to act (compare 1 Kings 22:19-22).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Would your faith in God survive if you lost all earthly blessings?
2. How do you guard against treating God as a means to prosperity rather than as your ultimate treasure?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעַן	הַשָּׂטָן	אֶת	יְהוָה	וַיֹּאמֶר	הַחַנָּן	יָרֵא	אֵי וּבֹ
answered	Then Satan	H853	the LORD	and said	for nought	fear	Doth Job
H6030	H7854		H3068	H559	H2600	H3372	H347
אֱלֹהִים:							
God							
H430							

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 16:26 (Parallel theme): For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Job 1:21 (References Lord): And said, 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 2:10 (References God): But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.

1 Timothy 6:6 (References God): But godliness with contentment is great gain.

1 Timothy 4:8 (References God): For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.