

Job 2:3

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

Analysis

God's second testimony adds 'he holdeth fast his integrity' (machaziq be-tummatō, מַחְזִיק בְּתוּמָתָו). The verb chazaq means to be strong, to hold firmly—Job clings to integrity despite loss. God then accuses Satan: 'although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause' (chinnam, נְאָנָם). This divine statement is crucial: God acknowledges Job's suffering has no basis in personal sin. The phrase vindicates Job's protests and refutes his friends' theology that all suffering results from sin.

Historical Context

This second heavenly council scene intensifies the test after Job passed the first trial. Satan's challenge escalates—people will endure loss of property but not personal pain. God's acknowledgment that He was 'moved' against Job 'without cause' demonstrates divine honesty about mystery—some suffering serves purposes beyond the sufferer's understanding, requiring trust in God's character.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does God's acknowledgment that Job suffered 'without cause' validate our struggles to understand suffering?
2. What does Job 'holding fast his integrity' teach about persevering when God's purposes aren't clear?

Interlinear Text

אָל	לְבָב	בְּשָׁתִים	מִתְ	בְּשָׁתִים	אָל	יְהִי	ה	וְיִאמְרָ
said	And the LORD	H413	unto Satan	Hast thou	considered	H413		
H559	H3068		H7854	H7760	H3820			
בְּאֵין	כִּי	אִי	אֵין	כִּי	כִּי	אֵין	אֵין	עָבֵד
my servant	Job	H3588	H369	H3644	that there is none like him in the earth	H776		
H5650	H347							
וְאֵין	אֱלֹהִים	אֵין	אֵין	אֵין	אֵין	אֵין	רַ	וְאֵין
man	a perfect	and an upright	one that feareth	H3373	God	H430	and escheweth	H5493
H376	H8535	H3477						
בְּתַמְתָּה	מִתְ	יְהִי	בְּתַמְתָּה	בְּתַמְתָּה	בְּתַמְתָּה	בְּתַמְתָּה	בְּתַמְתָּה	בְּתַמְתָּה
evil	H5750	and still he holdeth fast	his integrity	H8538	although thou movedst	H5496		
H7451		H2388						
בְּ	לְבָלָע	וְ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ
H0	me against him to destroy		him without cause	H2600				
	H1104							

Additional Cross-References

Job 1:8 (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?

Job 9:17 (Parallel theme): For he breaketh me with a tempest, and multiplieth my wounds without cause.

Proverbs 16:17 (Evil): The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul.

James 1:12 (References Lord): Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

1 Peter 1:7 (Parallel theme): That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

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.

John 9:3 (References God): Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

Philippians 3:12 (Parallel theme): Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

Proverbs 15:8 (Evil): The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

1 Peter 5:10 (References God): But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.