

Job 2:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.

Analysis

Satan requests permission to touch Job's 'bone and flesh'—his physical person—predicting this will cause Job to curse God directly ('to thy face'). The Hebrew 'nega' (touch) is the same word used for plague or affliction, suggesting painful physical disease. Satan assumes that bodily suffering penetrates deeper than economic loss, revealing his belief that humans are fundamentally materialistic. Yet God's grant of permission demonstrates His confidence that true faith endures even physical torment.

Historical Context

In the ancient world, physical disease was often interpreted as divine judgment and resulted in social ostracization. Satan's request thus encompasses not just pain but complete social alienation.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does your faith respond when physical suffering is added to circumstantial trials?
2. What does God's permission for Job's physical affliction teach us about the purposes of bodily suffering?

Interlinear Text

אֲלֹם שְׁלַח נָ א יָדְךָ וְגַ ע אֶל עַצְמוֹ וְאֶל
But **put forth** **thine hand** **now and touch** **his bone**
H199 H7971 H4994 H3027 H5060 H413 H6106 H413

וּבִשָּׂרִי אִם לֹא אֶל פְּנֵי יְיָ וְיָבִרְכֶּךָ:
and his flesh **thee to thy face** **and he will curse**
H1320 H518 H3808 H413 H6440 H1288

Additional Cross-References

Job 1:11 (Curse): But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

Job 1:5 (Curse): And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually.

Leviticus 24:15 (Curse): And thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel, saying, Whosoever curseth his God shall bear his sin.