

Job 2:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life.

Analysis

God grants Satan permission to afflict Job's body but draws a clear boundary: 'save his life.' This demonstrates God's absolute sovereignty even over Satan's attacks—the adversary can only go as far as divinely permitted. The preservation of Job's life ensures the trial doesn't end prematurely and that Job's vindication will be complete. This parallels Jesus's words to Peter: Satan demanded to sift him, but Christ's prayer ensures his faith doesn't fail (Luke 22:31-32).

Historical Context

The limitation placed on Satan reflects ancient Near Eastern concepts of divine sovereignty over both life and death, but Scripture uniquely emphasizes that even evil agents operate only within divinely ordained boundaries.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does knowing God sets limits on Satan's attacks provide comfort in suffering?
2. What purposes might God have in preserving your life through trials that could have killed you?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	יְהוָה	אֶל	הַשָּׁטָן	הִנֵּה	בְּ יָדֶךָ
said	And the LORD	H413	unto Satan	H2005	Behold he is in thine hand
H559	H3068		H7854		H3027
וְ שִׁמְרָה בְּ נֶפֶשׁ וְ אֶת אֶנְךָ					
H389	H853	his life	but save		
	H5315		H8104		

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 10:13 (Parallel theme): There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Job 1:12 (References Lord): And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

Revelation 2:10 (Parallel theme): Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.