

“Job honors you for a good reason. You protect him, his family, everything he owns and you have blessed everything he has done. But, if you extend your hand and strike everything he has, you will surely see him curse you to your face,” Satan replied.

“Very well, do what you want with everything he has, but do not touch Job,” God said.

One day, while Job’s children were celebrating at the elder brother’s house, a messenger came to Job and said,

“Some bandits attacked us and stole all the animals! They killed all the servants and only I escaped to bring you the news.”

The messenger was still talking when another messenger arrived and told Job,

“The fire of God fell from heaven and killed all the sheep and the shepherds! I only escaped to warn you.”

Another messenger arrived and said:

“Three raiding parties of Chaldean bandits attacked us, killed the servants and took away the camels. I just escaped!

The third messenger was speaking, when another messenger arrived and said:

“Your children were celebrating, when suddenly a mighty desert wind came and demolished the house. All who were in the house died! Only I escaped to give you the news.”

When Job heard this, he stood up, tore his cloak and shaved his head in sadness. Then, bowing to the ground, he worshiped God and said,

“Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; May the name of the Lord be praised!”

Once again the angels presented themselves before the Lord, and Satan with them, and God said to Satan,

“Have you seen my servant Job? He is still a good and honest man, even though you convinced me to let you do him harm for no reason.”

“Skin for skin!” Satan replied. “A man will give everything that he has for his own life. But stretch out your hand, strike his flesh and bones and you will surely see him curse you to your face.

“Very well, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life,” replied God.

So Satan covered Job’s whole body with sores. Then Job sat on ashes and all day he scratched himself with a piece of pottery.

His wife told him,

“Why do you insist on behaving righteously? Better curse God and die!”

“You are talking like a foolish woman. Will we receive from God only the good, and not accept the bad?” Job replied.

Despite everything that had happened to him, Job did not sin against God. (Job 1:1–2:10)