

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Job 1:1, 2: 1-10

1. There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, for he did not stoop when walking nor lean to the left or the right even when going up or down a hill, and he was erect in all his members, and he was one that feared God, and eschewed evil.

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1. Are you still with me? Good, for that was a sort of prologue. There was a day in heaven when the sons of God – an interesting theological concept, I know - came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the Lord. And the sons – ibid - did see him and mutter and question his presence but before the Lord they kept their silence. Well, mostly. And Michael fingered his weapon nervously.
2. And the Lord said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And he asketh this even though he was omnipotent and all-knowing and was possessed of the knowledge of where Satan had been. And Satan answered the Lord, and said, Oh, thou knowest. Here and there. Hither and thither. Ups and downs and tiddly-ay-di-die-do. Seriously? From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it, and roundabout its many shores and coastlines, which took quite a time, especially around the fiddly bits of Norway. And don't get me started on Cornwall.
3. And the Lord said unto Satan, In all thy travels and encounters with the human race, 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? Completely boring, I know. In fact, a bit of a pious git. For despite all the travails of earthly life still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.
4. And Satan answered the Lord, and said, Skin for skin. And the sons of God were mightily puzzled at this utterance. And Satan said, Yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life. Here's the deal.
5. Put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh and his hidden parts, and he will curse thee to thy face. Rude words beyond understanding, present company excepted.
6. And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; do what thou wilt but save his life. And I mean that. No slaying.
7. So went Satan forth grinning from the presence of the Lord, and smote Job exceedingly with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown, and the pustules did erupt with much excretions.
8. And he took him a potsherd to scrape himself withal; and he sat down among the ashes with a screen around him so that he might do it in private.
9. But his wife did peek and did see and wrinkleth her nose and was affronted at the sight and saith unto him, The sight of thee is loathsome and thy clothing is stained. Again. Dost thou still retain thine integrity? Curse God, and die.
10. But he said unto her, Thou woman of stupidity! Thou speakest as one of the foolish women at the village laundry house speaketh, or as thy mother. What? shall we receive only good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips, though in his thoughts he had some uncertainty which he was loathe to express. And his wife went her way to prepare some uncertain broth, and Job did continue scraping, thinking that this had the beginnings of an interesting book