

Prologue: Job 1-2

CHARACTERS: Job, Voice of God, Satan, Wife, Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 4 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Job 1-2

SATAN: I despise this Job, the greatest man among all the people of the east. He is a man of perfect integrity, who fears God and turns away from evil.

WIFE: (to JOB) Our 10 children have just completed a round of banqueting.

JOB: I will send for our children and purify them, rising early in the morning to offer burnt offerings for all of them.

WIFE: Why do you do this every time?

JOB: Perhaps my children have sinned, having cursed God in their hearts.

VOICE OF GOD: Where have you come from, Satan?

SATAN: From roaming through the earth and walking around on it.

VOICE OF GOD: Have you considered My servant Job? No one else on earth is like him, a man of perfect integrity, who fears God and turns away from evil.

SATAN: Does Job fear God for nothing? Haven't You placed a hedge around him, his household, and everything he owns? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out Your hand and strike everything he owns, and he will surely curse You to Your face.

VOICE OF GOD: Very well; everything he owns is in your power. However, you must not lay a hand on Job himself.

SATAN: Then I shall take my leave and do just that.

SERVANT 1: While the 500 yoke of oxen were plowing and the 500 donkeys grazing nearby, the Sabians swooped down and took them away. They struck down the servants with the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you!

SERVANT 2: A lightning storm struck from heaven. It burned up all 7000 sheep and the servants and devoured them, and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

SERVANT 3: The Chaldeans formed three bands, made a raid on the 3000 camels, and took them away. They struck down the servants with the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you!

SERVANT 4: Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house. Suddenly a powerful wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on the young people so that they died, and I alone have escaped to tell you!

JOB: (*standing up, tearing his robe and falling to the ground to worship*) Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will leave this life. The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. Praise the name of Yahweh.

SATAN: This is awful! Throughout all these disasters I have caused. Job did not sin or blame God for anything.

VOICE OF GOD: Where have you come from this time, Satan?"

SATAN: From roaming through the earth, and walking around on it.

VOICE OF GOD: Have you considered My servant Job? No one else on earth is like him, a man of perfect integrity, who fears God and turns away from evil. He still retains his integrity, even though you incited Me against him, to destroy him without just cause.

SATAN: Skin for skin. A man will give up everything he owns in exchange for his life. But stretch out Your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse You to Your face.

VOICE OF GOD: Very well; Job is in your power; only spare his life.

SATAN: I shall infect Job with terrible boils from the sole of his foot to the top of his head.

JOB: Hand me a piece of broken pottery to scrape myself while I sit among the ashes.

WIFE: Do you still retain your integrity? Curse God and die!

JOB: You speak as a foolish woman speaks. Should we accept only good from God and not adversity?

BILDAD: (*tearing his robe*) Who is that man sitting in the ash heap?

ELIPHAZ: (*throwing dust into the air*) Can it be Job?

BILDAD: I can't tell. Whoever it is, is covered in terrible boils from the sole of his foot to the top of his head.

ZOPHAR: (*weeping aloud*) How awful! We should just sit on the ground with him seven days and nights without speaking a word to him,

ELIPHAZ: Why?

ZOPHAR: Because his suffering is very intense.