

Transforming Daily
“ . . . to and fro on the earth . . . ”
Job 1:7 (2:2)

This text and that of 2:2 has received some criticism through the years about the nature of God confronting Satan and Satan in the presence of God. There has also been some question to the literal nature of the encounter. Since God is Omniscient and knows everything, why did He ask Satan where he came from and had he been considering His servant Job? The oversimplified answer has to do with literary device rather than literal dialogue. This is God’s Word, and if the event took place the way it says it took place, that’s the way it took place whether anyone accepts it or understands it or not.

However, there are many places throughout Scripture where similar literary device is used. One of the most popular is in Genesis 3:9, 11. Here God confronts Adam and Eve in their sin. God knows exactly what went on, why it went on, where it went on, and who was involved. Just the same, God wants Adam to know that He knows that Adam knows. So God asks Adam, Where are you and why are you there? Adam tells God what God already knew, but now Adam knows for certain that God knows, and has his attention. It’s that same way in Job.

Understand this point of doctrine very, very, carefully. Satan is not equal with God. Satan is a creation of God, an archangel to be exact, and a fallen archangel at that. The very same attitude exhibited here in Job 1:7 and 2:2 is the very attitude that got Satan cast out of heaven to the earth in the first place. God knew and knows exactly what Satan is up to, and where, and why. The text is very clear on what Satan is up to. In the New Testament, it says that he is roaring about seeking whom he may devour.

Just as Satan is no match for God, we are no match for Satan apart from Christ. Even with Christ, the believer needs to be spiritually discerning about how he or she encounters him. The Bible says in Jude that even Michael the archangel didn’t confront Satan in his own strength regarding the body of Moses, but deferred to the power of Christ (Jude 9). What am I saying? Know that “we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12). Therefore, put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:13-18).

In my sanctified imagination, I can see that in the same way that this event in Job took place, similar events like this take place every day. In the New Testament, Jesus told Peter that Satan wanted to destroy him, that is, to sift him like wheat (Luke 22:31). But Jesus told Peter that He was praying for him. That is exactly what takes place on our part by the Lord Jesus Christ our Advocate and Intercessor, the only Mediator that man needs.

If you like, when our adversary “considers” you, you can meet him in your own strength and understanding. Or you can do as Michael and Peter did and Rest in the Lord Jesus Christ and the power of His might when you are encountered by Satan walking to and fro on the earth.