

¹وَكَانَ ذَاتَ يَوْمٍ أَنَّهُ جَاءَ بَنُو اللَّهِ لِيَمْتَلُوا أَمَامَ الرَّبِّ، وَجَاءَ الشَّيْطَانُ أَيْضاً فِي وَسْطِهِمْ لِيَمْتَلِ أَمَامَ الرَّبِّ.² فَقَالَ الرَّبُّ لِلشَّيْطَانِ، مِنْ أَيْنَ جِئْتَ. فَأَجَابَ الشَّيْطَانُ، مِنَ الْجَوْلَانِ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَمِنَ التَّمَشِّي فِيهَا.³ فَقَالَ الرَّبُّ لِلشَّيْطَانِ، هَلْ جَعَلْتُ قَلْبَكَ عَلَى عَبْدِي أَيُّوبَ، لِأَنَّهُ لَيْسَ مِثْلُهُ فِي الْأَرْضِ. رَجُلٌ كَامِلٌ وَمُسْتَقِيمٌ يَتَّقِي اللَّهَ وَبَحِيدٌ عَنِ الشَّرِّ. وَإِلَيَّ الْآنَ هُوَ مُتَمَسِّكٌ بِكَمَالِهِ، وَقَدْ هَبَّجْتَنِي عَلَيْهِ لِأَتْلِعَهُ بِلا سَبَبٍ.⁴ فَأَجَابَ الشَّيْطَانُ، جَلْدٌ يَجْلِدُ، وَكُلُّ مَا لِلإِنْسَانِ يُعْطِيهِ لِأَجْلِ نَفْسِهِ.⁵ وَلَكِنْ ابْسِطِ الْآنَ يَدَكَ وَمَسِّ عَظْمَهُ وَلَحْمَهُ، فَإِنَّهُ فِي وَجْهِكَ يُخَدِّفُ عَلَيْكَ.⁶ فَقَالَ الرَّبُّ لِلشَّيْطَانِ، هَا هُوَ فِي يَدِكَ وَلَكِنْ احْقِطْ نَفْسَهُ.⁷ فَخَرَجَ الشَّيْطَانُ مِنْ حَضْرَةِ الرَّبِّ وَصَرَبَ أَيُّوبَ بِفَرْجٍ رَدِيٍّ مِنْ بَاطِنٍ قَدَمِهِ إِلَى هَامَتِهِ.⁸ فَأَخَذَ لِنَفْسِهِ سَفْقَةً لِيُخَتَّكَ بِهَا وَهُوَ جَالِسٌ فِي وَسْطِ الرَّمَادِ.⁹ فَقَالَتْ لَهُ امْرَأَتُهُ، أَنْتَ مُتَمَسِّكٌ بَعْدَ بِكَمَالِكَ. جَدِّفْ عَلَى اللَّهِ وَمُتْ.¹⁰ فَقَالَ لَهَا، تَتَكَلَّمِينَ كَلَاماً كَأَخَذِي الْجَاهِلَاتِ. أَلْخَيْرَ تَقْبَلُ مِنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ وَالشَّرَّ لَا تَقْبَلُ. فِي كُلِّ هَذَا لَمْ يُخْطِئِ أَيُّوبُ بِسَفْقَتَيْهِ.¹¹ فَلَمَّا سَمِعَ أَصْحَابُ أَيُّوبَ الثَّلَاثَةَ بِكُلِّ الشَّرِّ الَّذِي أَتَى عَلَيْهِ، جَاءُوا كُلُّ وَاحِدٍ مِنْ مَكَانِهِ، أَلِيقَارُ التِّيمَانِيُّ وَبِلْدَدُ الشُّوْحِيُّ وَصُوفَرُ النَّعْمَانِيُّ، وَتَوَاعَدُوا أَنْ يَأْتُوا لِيَرْتُوا لَهُ وَيُعْزَوْهُ.¹² وَرَفَعُوا أَعْيُنَهُمْ مِنْ بَعِيدٍ وَلَمْ يَعْرِفُوهُ، فَرَفَعُوا أَصْوَاتَهُمْ وَبَكَوْا، وَمَرَّقَ كُلُّ وَاحِدٍ جُبَّتَهُ وَدَثَرُوا تُرَاباً قَوْقَ رُؤُوسِهِمْ تَحَوُّ السَّمَاءِ،¹³ وَقَعَدُوا مَعَهُ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ سَبْعَةَ أَيَّامٍ وَسَبَّحَ لَيَالٍ، وَلَمْ يَكْلُمُهُ أَحَدٌ بِكَلِمَةٍ لِأَنَّهُمْ رَأَوْا أَنَّ كَاتِبَهُ كَانَتْ عَظِيمَةً جِدّاً.

¹Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD.² And the LORD said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.³ And the LORD said unto Satan, 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? and 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, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life.⁵ But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.⁶ And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life.⁷ So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.⁸ And he took him a potsherd to scrape himself withal; and he sat down among the ashes.⁹ Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die.¹⁰ But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.¹¹ Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that was come upon him, they came every one from his own place; Eliphaz the Temanite, and Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the

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Naamathite: for they had made an appointment together to come to mourn with him and to comfort him.¹² And when they lifted up their eyes afar off, and knew him not, they lifted up their voice, and wept; and they rent every one his mantle, and sprinkled dust upon their heads toward heaven.¹³ So they sat down with him upon the ground seven days and seven nights, and none spake a word unto him: for they saw that his grief was very great.