

The Book of Job
Class Two
Melton Gesher at JCC, September 21, 2011

Babylonian Talmud, Tractate Baba Batra page16a

Then the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, for there is none like him in the earth . . . and he still holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him to destroy him without cause. Said R. Yohanan: Were it not expressly stated in the Scripture, we would not dare to say it. [God is made to appear] like a man who others try to incite him against his better judgment and he yields.

Babylonian Talmud, Tractate Hagiga page 5a

R. Yohanan, when he came to the [following] verse, wept: And thou didst incite Me against him, to destroy him without cause. (Job 2:3) A slave whose Master, when they try to incite him against his better judgment, yields; is there any hope for him?

Midrash Breishit Raba 57:4

R. Simeon b. Lakish said: Job never existed at all. This view of Resh Lakish is self-contradictory, for elsewhere he said in the name of Bar Kappara: He flourished in the days of Abraham,⁴ while here he maintains thus? He means, however, that he was never exposed to the sufferings ascribed to him.⁵ Why then were they ascribed to him? Because had they come upon him, he would have been able to withstand them.