

He Gives and Takes Away?

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Toward a Better Understanding of the Sovereignty of God
Part of Chapter 7 “Addressing Misconceptions”
by C. D. Hildebrand

Misconception> “God gives and takes away.”

This is often quoted from the book of Job when satan was allowed to tempt Job to demonstrate that he would remain faithful, and Job lost nearly everything he held dear. We need to keep in mind that “taking away” was the work of satan. It was God who gave Job all he had, and it was God who gave to Job after his faith shone.

It is important to understand that **Job had no covenant with God and no promised protection from evil.**

Even under the Old Covenant, the people were protected if they obeyed the law and cursed if they did not. The Old Covenant provided protection against the types of things Job endured.

We are under the New Covenant only. Whatever authority satan possessed to accuse Job and devastate his life was destroyed at the cross. If ever satan were to accuse us and challenge God to let us suffer, God would simply point to the cross. He who *had* the power of death, the devil, was destroyed by Jesus’ death (Heb. 2:14-15).

Now concerning Job’s statement, “The Lord takes away,” there is no reference to God “taking away” under the New Covenant. On the contrary, we read only that He gives to us freely. Let’s change the words to that chorus to, “He gives to us each day. He never takes away.”

Will we go through difficult times? Yes. Will we be persecuted? Yes. Will we experience loss? Should we bless His holy name no matter what we face? Yes. Is God the author of these things? No. Should we thank **God** for evil? No.

These passages bear repeating. Can you hear them?

Romans 8:32

*He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also **freely give** us all things?*

1 Corinthians 2:12

*Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been **freely given** to us by God.*

Romans 11:29

For the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable (KJV: without repentance).

When we face difficulties, let us not see them as from God. Rather, let us look to God for help in times of need. He is the solution to our difficulties, not the author of them.