



**Saint Andrew, the Apostle**  
*The Collect.*

**A**LMIGHTY God, who didst give such grace unto thy holy Apostle Saint Andrew, that he readily obeyed the calling of thy Son Jesus Christ, and followed him without delay; Grant unto us all, that we, being called by thy holy Word, may forthwith give up ourselves obediently to fulfil thy holy commandments; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Sunday next before Advent**  
*The Collect.*

**S**TIR up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

There is a cross-over lesson between the Book of Job and our Collect for St Andrew the Apostle. Like Job, we must give up self interests in order to take up the interests of God. We subordinate our sinful wills to His Godly Will, and we make His Will our own in obeying His Commandments. This did Job!

## **Job 2**

King James Version (KJV)

**2** Again 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 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.

**Review:** Job is a man more blessed of God than all in the East. He is a man blameless (as are all sincere Christians), and He shuns evil as do all sincere Christians. Satan has questioned if Job's faith in God is real and persevering. His first weapon against an honorable man is character assassination – something alien to modern politics, right? God allows Satan to take away all that Job owns - except his health. The battle is joined and Satan, with the Lord's grant, deprives Job of his wealth, his servants, his sons and daughters, and his home. But Job does not waver in faith at these losses. There is one point to be made at this time: Satan is dangerous. He is more powerful

than you and I. He has great resources upon which to call. We cannot oppose Satan in frontal attack, but there is One mightier than Satan. There is One who has defeated the armies of Satan and his stragglers left on the field of struggle. That Person is the Lord Jesus Christ! Having Christ as the Captain and Bishop of our souls, we will falter not, nor succumb to the intrigues of Satan. *Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.* (1 John 4:4) We, too, must shun evil as did Job. We do not stop, as did Eve at Eden, before Satan and listen to his discordant voice. If we love righteousness, as did the Personification of Righteousness (Jesus Christ), we will command Satan to get behind us when he tempts, as did Christ. If you refuse the devil's toe into your door, he cannot enter the full house.

**Job, Chap 2:** This chapter opens with the familiar approach of Satan before the Council of Heaven. He always pushes his small advantages to the limit. So, he comes before God a second time to deliver his scandalous accusations against Job. The devil is not an honest player. He is always seeking to change the rules to amend for his losses. In Chap 1, Satan tells God: "...*put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.*" (Job 1:11) God granted Satan the warrant to take all that Job had, but this failed to profit the old Serpent. So now, he is back at it only, this time, the terms have changed again: 4. *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.* Satan reveals, between the lines, his dark and concealed aim from the beginning – **he wants Job dead!** God does not give Satan the power of life and death over any of His Children; however, God does permit the devil to tempt and try us to demonstrate the strength of faith and true Godliness in the heart of man. So God grants Satan the prerogative to hurt Job in the pains of his body. **Point to Ponder:** Satan has no power except that power expressly granted by God. 6. *And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life.* Another **Point to Ponder:** Satan takes an **individual interest** in the sons and daughters of God to destroy them! Out of all of the men on earth, Satan's attention is concentrated on this blameless man named Job. There are millions of wicked and evil men for whom Satan shows little attention – they are **already** his, but the blameless, and the professing Christian, is an affront to Satan and his final doom! If he cannot **BUY** you (with the trinkets of Manhattan Island), he wants you **DEAD!**

Satan again "goes out from the presence of the Lord" (for evil is not possible before the Lord) and carries his warrant out to the fullest extent of his privilege. He wastes no time in bringing pain and suffering to bear on those over whom he has been given the power to hurt. Satan strikes Job with painful boils from the sole of his feet to the crown of his head. This would prevent Job any position of comfort. Boils are painful even when movement is not made. Satan, in a sense, completely immobilizes Job. He immobilizes all over whom he exercises power and with whom he has any quarrel. Job sits in the midst of ashes possibly because the ancients had learned that communicable disease cannot spread through ashes. The devil was very cunning in leaving Job's wife with him for she was also a devil! When the world seemingly turns against us, we only have those closest to our heart upon which to rely, but Job's wife hurts Job just as much as does the devil: 9 *Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die.* It is questionable if Job's wife knew that God had limited Satan's power to take his life. In fact, I do not believe it mattered to her. She loathed Job since he had lost all of his wealth – a factor that makes men appealing to some women – and now is afflicted with a disgusting affliction. Her love was definitely not of the heart. It could not survive simple tragedy.

**Job's response:** 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. Job counsels his wife that all that we receive from God's hand, though at times mysterious, is for our good. We must accept the misery as a blessing in the same sense as the good. As long as life remains, all that comes is a gift. God very pointedly suggests that, even when there may be a doubt in the heart of a believer, vocal expression of that doubt is evil! "In all this did not Job sin with his lips."

And now, at his point of need, Job's friends come to mourn with him and to 'comfort' him. Though these three friends – Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar most likely began with the best of human intentions, their comfort and compassion failed as flesh. The devil can use even our closest friends (these three) and family (his wife) to antagonize us. Such become tools of the devil though we may love them truly. Christ loved Peter, yet Satan used Peter to tempt Christ. *21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. 22 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. 23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, **Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.*** (Matt 16:21-23) The principle of Satan's work, even in the heart of a good man, is so clearly illustrated in this last passage that further exposition is not profitable.

The study of this Book, and every Book of the Bible, is so chock-full of solid nutrients for the Christian soul that I love to contemplate all of the gems of it. Rather than drudgery, it is both a privilege and a pleasure to allow these Words and works of God to inspire and increase our faith. Are you excited at the study of all of God's Word, Friend?