

# God Sets Limits

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*When I said, ‘**This far** you may come, but no farther, And here your proud waves must stop!’ Job 38:11*

*God is in charge. Often in a traumatic memory, it doesn’t feel like He is, but He is. He only lets things go so far. I am comforted by this truth. No matter how big or difficult the trouble is, God has all the authority to say, “This far and no farther.” I am safe in His wisdom and mercy.*

Studies included in this article are: Set Bounds; Bound; Boundaries; Lines; Bind; Binding Satan; Binding (God’s People); Permit (God); Permit (Jesus); Permit (Holy Spirit); God Permitted; Jesus Permitted; Lord Permits; God Permits; Allow (God); Allow (Jesus); Allowed (God); Limit (God); Limits (God); God Limited; Sets Time; Examples of God Setting Limits

For more information on this topic, please see: “Why, Lord?”; “Determined”

## Set Bounds

Exodus 23:31 And I will set your **bounds** from the Red Sea to the sea, Philistia, and from the desert to the River. For I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you shall drive them out before you.

## Bound

Jeremiah 5:22 Do you not fear Me?’ says the **LORD**. ‘Will you not tremble at My presence, Who have placed the sand as the **bound** of the sea, By a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass beyond it? And though its waves toss to and fro, Yet they cannot prevail; Though they roar, yet they cannot pass over it.

## Boundaries

Numbers 34:12 The border shall go down along the Jordan, and it shall end at the Salt Sea. This shall be your land with its surrounding **boundaries**.

Deuteronomy 32:8 When the Most High divided their inheritance to the nations, When He separated the sons of Adam, He set the **boundaries** of the peoples According to the number of the children of Israel.

Acts 17:26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the **boundaries** of their dwellings.

## Lines

Psalms 16:6 The **lines** have fallen to me in pleasant *places*; Yes, I have a good inheritance.

## **Bind**

Job 38:31 Can you [bind](#) the cluster of the Pleiades, Or loose the belt of Orion?

Job 39:10 Can you [bind](#) the wild ox in the furrow with ropes? Or will he plow the valleys behind you?

Job 40:13 Hide them in the dust together, [Bind](#) their faces in hidden *darkness*.

## **Binding Satan**

Job 1:12 And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has *is* in your power; only do not lay a hand on his *person*." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

Job 2:6 And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he *is* in your hand, but spare his life."

## **Binding (God's People)**

Psalms 105:22 To [bind](#) his [Joseph] princes at his pleasure, And teach his elders wisdom.

Matthew 16:19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you [bind](#) on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you [loose](#) on earth will be loosed in heaven.

Matthew 18:18 Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you [bind](#) on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you [loose](#) on earth will be loosed in heaven.

## **Permit (God)**

Psalms 55:22 Cast your burden on the LORD, And He shall sustain you; He shall never [permit](#) the righteous to be moved.

## **Permit (Jesus)**

Matthew 8:31 So the demons begged Him, saying, "If You cast us out, [permit](#) us to go away into the herd of swine."

Mark 5:19 However, Jesus did not [permit](#) him, but said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you."

Luke 8:32 Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would [permit](#) them to enter them. And He permitted them.

## **Permit (Holy Spirit)**

Acts 16:7 After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not [permit](#) them.

## God Permitted

1 Chronicles 16:21-22 He [permitted](#) no man to do them wrong; Yes, He rebuked kings for their sakes, *"Saying, "Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm.""*

Psalms 105:7, 14-15 "He *is* the LORD our God; His judgments *are* in all the earth...He permitted no one to do them wrong; Yes, He rebuked kings for their sakes, *Saying, "Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm."*

## Jesus Permitted

Mark 5:37 And He [permitted](#) no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James.

Luke 8:32 Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He [permitted](#) them.

Luke 8:51 When He came into the house, He [permitted](#) no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl.

## Lord Permits

1 Corinthians 16:7 For I do not wish to see you now on the way; but I hope to stay a while with you, if the Lord [permits](#).

## God Permits

Hebrews 6:3 And this we will do if God [permits](#).

## Allow (God)

Genesis 31:7 Yet your father has deceived me and changed my wages ten times, but God did not [allow](#) him to hurt me.

Exodus 12:23 For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and not [allow](#) the destroyer to come into your houses to strike *you*.

Job 9:18 He will not [allow](#) me to catch my breath, But fills me with bitterness.

Psalms 16:10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You [allow](#) Your Holy One to see corruption.

Psalms 66:9 Who keeps our soul among the living, And does not [allow](#) our feet to be moved.

Psalms 89:33 Nevertheless My lovingkindness I will not utterly take from him, Nor [allow](#) My faithfulness to fail.

Psalms 121:3 He will not [allow](#) your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.

Proverbs 10:3 The LORD will not [allow](#) the righteous soul to famish, But He casts away the desire of the wicked.

### **Allow (Jesus)**

Mark 1:34 Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not [allow](#) the demons to speak, because they knew Him.

Mark 11:16 And He would not [allow](#) anyone to carry wares through the temple.

Luke 4:41 And demons also came out of many, crying out and saying, "You are the Christ, the Son of God!" And He, rebuking *them*, did not [allow](#) them to speak, for they knew that He was the Christ.

Acts 2:27 For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You [allow](#) Your Holy One to see corruption.

Acts 13:35 Therefore He also says in another *Psalms*: 'You will not [allow](#) Your Holy One to see corruption.'

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not [allow](#) you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it*.

### **Allowed (God)**

Deuteronomy 8:3 So He humbled you, [allowed](#) you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every *word* that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.

Acts 14:16 Who in bygone generations [allowed](#) all nations to walk in their own ways.

### **Limit (God)**

Job 13:27 You put my feet in the stocks, And watch closely all my paths. You set a [limit](#) for the soles of my feet.

Job 15:8 Have you heard the counsel of God? Do you [limit](#) wisdom to yourself?

Job 38:10 When I fixed My [limit](#) for it, And set bars and doors;

Proverbs 8:29 When He assigned to the sea its [limit](#), So that the waters would not transgress His command, When He marked out the foundations of the earth.

## Limits (God)

Job 11:7 Can you search out the deep things of God? Can you find out the [limits](#) of the Almighty?

Job 14:5 Since his days *are* determined, The number of his months *is* with You; You have appointed his [limits](#), so that he cannot pass.

Psalms 71:15 My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness *And* Your salvation all the day, For I do not know *their* [limits](#).

2 Corinthians 10:13 We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the [limits](#) of the sphere which God appointed us—a sphere which especially includes you.

## God Limited

Psalms 78:41 Yes, again and again they tempted God, And [limited](#) the Holy One of Israel.

## Sets Time

Genesis 17:21 But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this [set time](#) next year.

Genesis 21:2 For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the [set time](#) of which God had spoken to him.

Exodus 9:5 Then the LORD appointed a [set time](#), saying, "Tomorrow the LORD will do this thing in the land."

Job 14:13 Oh, that You would hide me in the grave, That You would conceal me until Your wrath is past, That You would appoint me a [set time](#), and remember me!

Psalms 102:13 You will arise *and* have mercy on Zion; For the time to favor her, Yes, the [set time](#), has come.

## Examples of God Setting Limits

Job 1:12 *And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not [lay a hand](#) on his person." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.*

Job 2:6 And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he *is* in your hand, but spare [his life](#)."

Malachi 3:2-3 But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He *is* like a [refiner](#)'s fire And like launderer's soap. He will sit as a [refiner](#) and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness.

Matthew 8:26 But He said to them, "[Why](#) are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

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