

Chapter 9

Iob approueth that no man auouching his owne iustice before God is iustified. 22. Teacheth that affliction of the innocent standeth wil with Gods iustice, wifdom, and powre.

And Iob anfwering, faid: ^{2 a)}In deede I know it is so, & that man can not be iustified compared with God. ³ If he wil contend with him, he can not anwer him one for a thoufand. ⁴ He is wife of hart, and ftrong of force: who hath refifted him, & hath had peace? ⁵ He that tranfported mountaynes, and they whom he fubuerted in his furie, knew not. ⁶ He that remoueth the earth out of her place, and the pillars therof are fhaken. ⁷ He that commandeth the funne, & it rifeth not: and shutteth vp the ftarres as it were vnder a feale: ⁸ He that alone fpreadeth the heauens, and goeth vpon the waues of the fea. ⁹ He that maketh Arcturus, and Orion, and Hyades, and the inner partes of the fouth. ¹⁰ He that doth great thinges, and incomprehenfible, and meruelous of the which there is no number. ¹¹ If he come to me, I shal not fee him: if he depart, I shal not vnderftand. ¹² If fodenly he aske, who shal anwer him? or who can fay: Why doeft thou fo? ¹³ God whose wrath no man can refift, and vnder whom they ftoope that ^{b)}carie the world. ¹⁴ How great am I then, that I may anwer him, and fpeake in my wordes with him? ¹⁵ Who although I haue anie iuft thing, wil not anwer, ^{c)}but wil befech my iudge. ¹⁶ And when he shal heare me inuocating, I doe not beleue that he hath heard my voice. ¹⁷ For in a hurle winde shal he breake me, and shal multiplie my woundes yea without caufe.

^a Iob here granteth that which was truly faid by his aduerfarie, & fheweth how he did wrong applie true doctrin againft him, and fo ftill defendeth his owne innocencie, and iuft quarel.

^b Angels moue the fpheres of heauen.

^c Euen fo S. Paul, though he was not guiltie in confcience of anie crime, yet he would not therin iuftifie himfelf. *1. Cor. 4.*

¹⁸ He graunteth not my fpirit to reft, and he filleth me with bitterneffe. ¹⁹ If ftrengh be demaunded, he is moft ftrong: if equitie of iudgement, no man dare geue teftimonie for me. ²⁰ If I wil iuftifie my felf, mine owne mouth shal condemne me, if I wil shew my felf innocent, he shal proue me wicked. ²¹ Although I shal be fimple, the felf fame shal my foul be ignorant of, and I shal be wearie of my life. ²² ^a)One thing there is that I haue fpoken, both the innocent and the impious he confumeth. ²³ If he fcourge, let him kil at once, and not laugh at the paynes of innocentes. ²⁴ The earth is geuen into the handes of the impious, he couereth the face of the iudges therof: and if it be not he, who is it then? ²⁵ My dayes haue bene fwifter then a poft: they haue fled and haue not fene good. ²⁶ They haue paffed by as shippes carying fruites, as an eagle flying to meate. ²⁷ When I shal fay: I wil not fpeake fo, I change my face, and am tormented with forow. ²⁸ I ^b)feared al my workes, knowing that thou didft not spare the offender. ²⁹ But if fo alfo I am impious, why haue I laboured in vayne? ³⁰ If I be wafhed as it were with fnow waters, and my handes shal fhine as moft cleane. ³¹ Yet fhall thou dippe me in filth, and my garmentes fhall abhorre me. ³² For neither I wil anfwer a man that is like my felf: nor that may be heard with me equally in iudgement. ³³ There is none that may be able to reprove both, and to put his hand between both. ³⁴ Let him take his rod from me, and let not his dread terrifie me. ³⁵ I wil fpeake, and wil not feare him: for I can not anfwer fearing.

^a This is an affured true affertion, that God afflicteth both good & euil in this life.

^b Feare on mans part, and hope in God, do wel confift together. So both prefumption and defperation are auoided.