

Chapter 13

Of their owne wordes Iob confuteth his aduerfaries, that they haue fspoken that which they know not, 13. defendeth his owne innocencie, 22. defiring of God, if he be afflicted for fecrete finnes, that he may know them.

Behold mine eie hath feene al thefe thinges, and mine eare hath heard, & I haue vnderftood euerie thing. ² According to your knowledge I alfo do know: neither am I inferiour to you. ³ But yet I wil fpeake to the Omnipotent, and I couet to difpute with God. ⁴ Firft fhewing you to be forgers of lying, and mainteyners of peruerfe opinions. ⁵ And would God ye would hold your peace, that you might be thought to be wife men. ⁶ Heare ye therefore my correptions, and attend the iudgement of my lippes. ⁷ Hath God neede of your lye, that for him you fpeake guiles? ⁸ Doe you take his perfon, and doe you endeuour ^{a)}to iudge for God? ⁹ Or fhall it pleafe him from whom nothing can be concealed, or fhall he be deceiued as a man, with your fraudulent dealings? ¹⁰ He fhall reprove you, becaufe in fecrete you take his perfon. ¹¹ Forthwith as he fhall moue himfelf, he fhall trouble you: and his terrour fhall come violently vpon you. ¹² Your memorie fhall be compared to ashes, and your neckes fhall be brought into clay. ¹³ Hold your peace a litle while, that I may fpeake, whatfoeuer my minde fhall prompt me. ¹⁴ ^{b)}Why doe I teare my flesh with my teeth, & carie my foule in my handes? ¹⁵ Although he fhall kil me, I wil ^{c)}truft in him: but yet I wil reprove my waies in his fight. ¹⁶ And he fhall be my fauour: for no hypocrite fhall come in his

^a Iobs ftate of finne or innocencie was beft knowne to God, next to his owne confcience, not at al to his aduerfaries, that prefumed to iudge therof.

^b It femed to his aduerfaries that of defperation he would tear his flesh, and fo kil himfelf, and to be fo nere death as if one held his foule in his hand readie to let it fal from him.

^c He was in extreme anguifh, but ftill trufted in God.

fight. ¹⁷ Heare ye my word, and receiue the obfcure fay-
dings with your eares. ¹⁸ If I shal be iudged, I know that
I shal be found iuft. ¹⁹ What is he that wil be iudged
with me? let him come: why am I confumed holding my
peace? ²⁰ Two things only do not to me, and then shal
I not be hid from thy face. ²¹ Make thy hand far from
me, and let not thy feare terrifie me. ²² Cal me, and I
wil anfwer thee: or els I wil fpeake, and doe thou anfwer
me. ²³ How great iniquities and finnes I haue, my wicked
deedes and my offences ^ashewe thou me. ²⁴ Why hideft
thou thy face, and thinkest me thine enemy? ²⁵ Againft
the leafe, that is violently taken with the wind, thou
sheweft thy might, and perfecutest drie ftubble. ²⁶ For
thou writest bitternes againft me, and wilt confume me
with the finnes of my youth. ²⁷ Thou haft put my feete
in the ftockes, and haft obserued al my pathes, and haft
confidered the fteppes of my feete. ²⁸ Who as rottenes
am to be confumed, and as a garment, that is eaten of
the moth.

^a He denieth that he is guiltie in confcience but defireth to know of
God, if he haue anie hid finnes which himfelf knoweth not.