

Chapter 15

Eliphaz againe chargeth Iob to haue spoken presumptuously & blasphemously, 14. auoucheth that no man is innocent nor iust, 20. describing the malediction of impious and hypocrites.

The fourt conflict.

But Eliphaz the Themanite answering, sayd:
² Wil a wife man answer as it were speaking into the wind, and fill his stomacke with burning? ³ Thou ^a)reprouest him in wordes, that is not equal to thee, and speakest that which is not expedient for thee. ⁴ As much as is in thee, thou hast euacuated feare, and hast taken away prayers before God. ⁵ For thine iniquitie hath taught thy mouth, and thou doest imitate the tongue of blasphemers. ⁶ Thine owne mouth shall condemne thee, and not I: and thy lippes shall answer thee. ⁷ Waft thou the first man borne, and formed before the little hilles? ⁸ Hast thou heard Gods counsell, and shall his wifedome be inferiour to thee? ⁹ What doest thou know, that we are ignorant of? what doest thou vnderstand that we know not? ¹⁰ There are both oldmen and ancients among vs, much elder then thy fathers. ¹¹ Is it a great matter that God should comfort thee: but thy naughty wordes hinder it. ¹² Why doth thy hart eleuate thee, and as thinking great thinges, hast thou estonied eies. ¹³ Why doeth thy spirit swell agaynst God, to vtter such wordes out of thy mouth. ¹⁴ What is man, that he should be ^b)without spot, and that the borne of a woman should appeare ^c)iust? ¹⁵ Behold among his faintes none is immutable, and the heauens are not cleane in his sight. ¹⁶ How much more is man abominable, and vnprofitable, who drinketh iniquitie as it were water? ¹⁷ I wil shew thee, heare me: that which I haue seene I wil tel thee. ¹⁸ Wifemen confesse and hide

^a Eliphaz not able to answer Iobs solide reasons, railleth against him, as if he were iniurious to God, or taught others to cast away feare.

^b It is a very rare privilege to be without spot.

^c But spot of venial finnes may be in a iust man.

not their fathers. ¹⁹ To whom onlie the earth was geuen, and ftranger hath not paffed by them. ²⁰ The impious is proud al his daies, and ^a)the number of the yeares of his tyrannie is vncertaine. ²¹ The found of terroure is alwaies in his eares: and when there is peace, he alwaies fufpecteth treafon. ²² He beleueth not that he may returne from darkeneffe to light, looking round about for the fword on euerie fide. ²³ When he fhall moue himfelf to feeke bread, he knoweth that the day of darkeneffe is prepared in his hand. ²⁴ Tribulation fhall terrifie him, and diftreffe fhall compaffe him, as a king that is prepared to battel. ²⁵ For he hath ftretched his hand againft God, and is ftrengthened againft the Omnipotent. ²⁶ He hath runne againft him with necke fet vp right, and is armed with a fatte necke. ²⁷ Fatneffe hath couered his face, and from his fides there hangeth tallow. ²⁸ He hath dwelt in defolate cities, and in defert houfes, that are brought into hillockes. ²⁹ He fhall not be enriched, neither fhall his fubftance continew, neither fhall he put his roote in the earth. ³⁰ He fhall not depart out of darkenes, the flame fhall drie his boughes, and he fhall be taken away with the fpirit of his owne mouth. ³¹ He fhall not beleue vainely deceiued with errour, that he may be redemed with anie price. ³² Before his daies be accomplished, he fhall perish: and his handes fhall wither. ³³ His clufter in the firft flower fhall be hurt as a vine, and as the oliue tree cafting his flower. ³⁴ For the congregation of the hypocrite is barren, and fire fhall deuoure their tabernacles, which gladly take giftes. ³⁵ He conceived forow, and hath brought forth iniquitie, and his wombe prepareth guiles.

^a Al thefe miferies are incident to the wicked, but are fallfly applied to holie Iob, who in dede was iuft.