

Chapter 19

Iob lamenteth of his freindes crueltie, 6. affirmeth that his so great affliction is not for his finnes, 25. and comforteth himself with his vndoubted beliefe of the Refurrection.

But Iob anfwering, fayd: ² How long doe you afflict my foule, and weare me with wordes? ³ Behold, ten times you confound me, and are not ashamed oppreſſing me. ⁴ For although I haue bene ignorant, mine ignorance ſhal be with me. ⁵ But you are ſet vp againſt me, and reprove me with my reproches. ⁶ At the leaſt now vnderſtand ye, that God hath afflicted me ^a)not with equal iudgement, and hath compaſſed me with his ſcourges. ⁷ Behold I ſhal crie ſuffering violence, and no man wil heare: I ſhal crie out, and there is none to iudge. ⁸ He hath hedged my path round about, and I can not paſſe, and in my way hath put darkeneſſe. ⁹ He hath ſpoiled me of my glorie, and hath taken the crowne from my head. ¹⁰ He hath deſtroyed me on euerie ſide, and I periſh, and as it were from a tree plucked hath he taken away my hope. ¹¹ His furie is wrath againſt me, and he hath ſo accounted me as his enimie. ¹² His feriantes haue come together, and haue made them felues a way by me, and haue beſieged my tabernacle round about. ¹³ He hath made my brethren far from me, and my acquaintance as ſtrangers haue departed from me. ¹⁴ My kinfemen haue forſaken me, and they that knew me haue forgotten me. ¹⁵ The gheſtes of my houſe, and my maydſeruantſes haue counted me an aliene, and I haue bene as it were a ſtranger in their eies. ¹⁶ I called my ſeruant, and he did not anſwer me, with mine owne mouth I beſought him. ¹⁷ My wife hath abhorred my

^a Bleſſed Iob (faith S. Gregorie *li. 14. c. 16, 17.*) looking ſincerly on his owne life, ſaw that his affliction was greater then his finnes deferued and in that reſpect was not equal: yet it was iuſt, for God, being iuſt geueth a iuſt reward, a crowne of iuſtice as S. Paul ſpeaketh of himſelf. (*2. Tim. 4.*)

breath, and I prayed the children of my wombe. ¹⁸ Fooles also despised me, and when I was departed from them, they backbited me. ¹⁹ My counfelters sometime haue abhorred me: and he ^a)whom I loued moft hath turned againft me. ²⁰ The flesh being confumed my bone hath cleaued to my skinne, and there are left onlie lippes about my teeth. ²¹ Haue mercie vpon me, haue mercie vpon me, at the leaft you my frendes, becaufe the hand of our Lord hath touched me. ²² Why doe you as God perfecute me, and are filled with my flesh. ²³ Who wil grant me that my wordes may be writen? who wil geue me that they may be drawen in a booke, ²⁴ with yron penne, and in plate of leade, or els with ftile might be grauen in flintftone? ²⁵ For ^b)I know that my Redemer liueth, and in the laft day I shal rife out of the earth. ²⁶ And I shal be compaffed agayne with my skinne, and in my flesh I shal fee God. ²⁷ Whom I my felf shal fee, and mine eies shal behold, and ^c)none other: this my hope is layd vp in my bofome. ²⁸ Why then doe you fay now: Let vs perfecute him, and let vs finde roote of word agaynft him? ²⁹ Flee therfore from the face of the fword, becaufe the fword is the reuenger of iniquities: and know ye that there is iudgement.

^a Al refused holie Iob in his affliction, euen thofe whom he had loued moft: who therefore ought moft to haue loued him againe.

^b An expresse profeffion of his faith of the Refurrection.

^c VVe fhall rife againe, not as one tree rifeth in place of an other, but the felf fame perfones, changed in qualities, not in fubftance.