

Chapter 20

Sophar auoucheth that some wicked men flourish for a time, but are afterwards iustly plagued. 19. Therupon condemneth Iob as an hypocrite.

The sixth conflict.

But Sophar the Naamathite answering, sayd:
² Therefore my diuerse cogitations succede one
 an other, and my minde is rapt into fundrie
 things. ³ The doctrine, wherwith thou reproveft me, I
 wil heare, and the spirit of my vnderftanding shal answer
 me. ⁴ This I know from the beginning, since man was
 placed vpon the earth. ⁵ That the praife of the impious
 is ^ashort, and the ioy of the hypocrite as it were for a
 moment. ⁶ If his pride rife vp euen to the heauen, and
 his head touch the cloudes: ⁷ as a dunghil in the end he
 shal be destroyed, and they that had fene him, shal say:
 Where is he? ⁸ As a dreame that fleeth away he shal
 not be found, he shal passe as a vision by night. ⁹ The
 eie that had fene him, shal not see him, neither shal his
 place behold him anie more. ¹⁰ His children shal come
 to naught with pouertie, and his handes shal render him
 his forow. ¹¹ His bones shal be filled with the vices of
 his youth, and they shal sleepe with him in the duft.
¹² For when euil shal be sweete in his mouth, he wil hide
 it vnder his tongue. ¹³ He wil spare it, and not leaue it,
 and wil hide it in his throte. ¹⁴ His bread in his belly
 shal be turned into the gaule of apes within him. ¹⁵ The
 riches which he hath deuoured, he shal vomite out, and
 God shal draw them forth out of his belly. ¹⁶ He shal
 fucke the head of apes, and the vipers tongue shal kil
 him. (¹⁷ Let him not see the ftreames of the riuer, the

^a Al mans life is short and as a moment in comparifon of eternitie;
 but it is not alwayes true that the wicked are shortly punished in
 respect of this life, as this disputer applieth it to proue Iob to be
 impious. Therefore Iob answereth in the *next chapter v. 13.* That
 ordinarily the wicked, *lead their dayes* (to witt their whole life) *in*
vvealth and (then) *in a moment goe downe to hel.* So the rest of
 these mens assertions are for most part true in some sense but il
 applied.

torrentes of honie, & of butter.) ¹⁸ He shal be punished for al thinges that he did, & yet not be cōfumed: according to the multitude of his inuentions fo also shal he fuffer. ¹⁹ Because breaking in he hath made the poore naked: he hath violently taken houfe, & built it not. ²⁰ Neither is his bellie filled: and when he shal haue the thinges he coueted, he can not poffeffe them. ²¹ There remayned not of his meate, & therefore nothing shal continewe of his goodes. ²² When he shal be filled, he shal be ftraytened, he shal burne, and al forow shal fal vpon him. ²³ Would God his belly were filled, that he may fend forth the wrath of his furie vpon him, and rayne his battel vpon him. ²⁴ He shal flee wepons of yron, and shal fal vpon a bowe of braffe. ²⁵ The fword plucked out, and coming forth of his scabbard, and gliftering in his bitterneffe: the horrible shal goe and come vpon him. ²⁶ Al darkeneffe is hid in his secretes: fyre that is not kindled shal deuoure him, he shal be afflicted leaft in his tabernacle. ²⁷ The heauens shal reuele his iniquitie, and the earth shal rife againft him. ²⁸ The bloffome of his houfe shal be opened, he shal be plucked downe in the day of Gods furie. ²⁹ This the portion of an impious man from God, & the inheritance of his wordes from our Lord.