

Chapter 23

Iob expecteth helpe and sentence of God, 6. with iuft feare, yet with good confcience maintaineth his owne innocencie.

But Iob anfwering, fayd: ² ^{a)} Now alfo my talke is in bitterneffe, and the hand of my plague is aggravated vpon my mourning. ³ Who wil grant me that I may know and find him and come euen to ^{b)} his throne? ⁴ I wil fet iudgement before him, and wil fil my mouth with accufations. ⁵ That I may know the wordes, that he wil anwer me, and vnderftand what he wil fpeake to me. ⁶ I wil not that he contend with me with much ftrength, nor that he opprefse me with the weight of his greatnes. ⁷ Let him propofe equitie againft me, and my iudgement shal come to victorie. ⁸ If I shal goe to the Eaft, he appeareth not: if to the Weft, I shal not vnderftand him. ⁹ If to the left hand, what shal I doe? I shal not apprehend him: if I turne myfelf to the right hand, I shal not fee him. ¹⁰ But he knoweth my way, & hath proued me as gold that paffeth through the fyre. ¹¹ My foote hath folowed his fteppes, I haue kept his way, & haue not declined out of it. ¹² From the commandementes of his lippes I haue not departed, and I haue hid the wordes of his mouth in my bofome. ¹³ For he is alone, and no man can turne away his cogitation: and whatfoeuer his foule would, that hath he done. ¹⁴ And when he shal haue fulfilled his wil in me, manie other things alfo are at hand with him. ¹⁵ And therefore I am trubled at his face, and confidering him I am made penfife with feare. ¹⁶ God hath mollified my hart, and the Omnipotent hath trubled me. ¹⁷ For I haue not perifhed becaufe of the imminent darkeneffe, neither hath the mift couered my face.

^a VVhiles he expected fome comforth of his freindes, they ftill afflicted him more and more, chargeing him with falfe crimes and fo aggravating his grief both of bodie and mind.

^b Therefore he appealeth to Gods iudgement feate for sentence.