

Chapter 29

Againe Iob recounteth Gods former benefites, as wel his grace, wherby he did good workes, 5. as temporal prosperitie, 9. and wifdome aboute other princes.

Iob also added, taking ^{a)}his parable, and fayd: ² Who wil grant me, that I may be according to the former monethes, according to the daies in which God kept me? ³ When his lampe fhined ouer my head, & I walked by his light in darknes? ⁴ As I was in the daies of my youth, when God was fecretly in my tabernacle? ⁵ When the Omnipotent was with me: and my feruantes round about me? ⁶ When I wafhed my feete with butter, and the rocke powred me riuers of oile? ⁷ When I went forth to the gate of the citie, and in the ftreate they prepared me a chaire? ⁸ Yong men fawe me, and hid them felues: and old men rifing vp ftoode. ⁹ The princes ceafed to fpeake, and did put the finger vpon their mouth. ¹⁰ Dukes held in their voice, and their tongue cleaued to their throate. ¹¹ The eare hearing counted me bleffed, and the eie feing gaue teftimonie to me. ¹² For that I had deliuered the poore man crying out, and the pupil, that had no helper. ¹³ The bleffing of him that was readie to perifh came vpon me, and I confortd the hart of the widow. ¹⁴ I was clothed with iuftice: and I reuefted me with my iudgement, as with a garment and crowne. ¹⁵ I was an eie to the blind, and a foote to the lame. ¹⁶ I was the father of the poore: and the caufe which I knew not, I fearched moft diligently. ¹⁷ I brake the iawes of the wicked man, and out of his teeth I tooke away the praye. ¹⁸ And I faid: I wil die in my litle nef, & as a palmetree wil multiplie daies. ¹⁹ My roote is opened befide the waters, and dewe fhall continue in my harueft. ²⁰ My glorie fhall alwaies be renewed, and my bow in my hand fhall be repayred.

^a Parables are not only fimilitudes of thinges but alfo pithie and profound fentences fuch as Iob, Salomon, and other wife men vttered.

²¹ They that heard me, expected fentence, and attent held their peace at my counfel. ²² To my wordes they durft adde nothing, and my fpeech diftilled vpon them. ²³ They expected me as rayne, and they opened their mouth as it were to a lateward shower. ²⁴ If at anie time I laughed on them, they beleued not, and the light of my countenance fel not on the earth. ²⁵ If I would haue gone to them, I fate firft, and when I fate ^a)as a king, with his armie ftanding about him, yet was I a conforter of them that mourned.

^a This particke (as) importeth not here a fimilitude but rather that he was a very king or fupreme prince as hauing fupreme authoritie *v. 7.* royal vertue and crowne. *v. 14.* *Ifidorus li. de vita Sanct. Beda & alij.*