

Chapter 31

Holie Iob reciteth fincerly his owne vertues, shewing therby that he is not punished fo greuoufly for his finnes, but by Gods prouidence for fome other caufe.

I haue ^{a)}made a couenant with mine eyes, that I would not fo much as ^{b)}thinke of a virgin. ² For what part should God from aboue haue in me, & inheritance the Omnipotent from on high? ³ Is there not perdition to the wicked man, and alienation to them that worke iniuftice? ⁴ Doth not he confider my waies, and number al my fteppes? ⁵ If I haue walked in vanitie, and my foote hath haftened in guile: ⁶ let him wey me in a iuft balance, and let God know my fimpticitie. ⁷ If my fteppe haue declined out of the way, and if mine eie hath folowed my hart, and if fpotte hath cleaued to my handes: ⁸ let me fow, and let an other eate it: and let my progenie be plucked vp by the rootes. ⁹ If my hart hath bene deceiued vpon a woman, and if I haue lyene in waite at my freinds doore: ¹⁰ let my wife be the harlot of an other man, and let other men lye with her. ¹¹ For this is a hainous thing, and moft great iniquitie. ¹² It is a fire deuoring euen to perdition, and rooting vp al thinges that fpring. ¹³ If I haue contemned to abide iudgement with my man feruant, and my mayd feruant, when they had anie controuerfie againft me. ¹⁴ For what fhall I doe when God fhall rife to iudge? and when he fhall aske, what fhall I anfwer him? ¹⁵ Did not he make me in the wombe that made him alfo: and did not one forme me in the matrice? ¹⁶ If I haue denied to the poore, that which they would, and haue made the eyes of the widow to expect: ¹⁷ if I haue eaten my

^a Whereas there is a continual warre between a chaift mind and rebellious flefh, holie Iob made this condition of truce betwene thefe enimies: that his eye should neuer geue occafion to carnal concupifcence.

^b By which meanes, he was alfo fafe from carnal cogitations. *S. Greg. li. 21. c. 2.*

morfel alone, and the pulpil hath not eaten therof with me. (18 Because from mine infancie mercy that growen with me: and from my mothers wombe it came forth with me.) 19 If I haue dispifed him that perisheth, for that he had not clothing, and the poore man without wherwithal to couer him: 20 if his fides haue not bleffed me, & he was not warmed with the flifes of my fheepe: 21 if I haue lifted vp my hand ouer the pupil, yea when I faw my felf in the gate the fuperior: 22 let my fhoulder fal from his iuncture, and let my arme with his bones be broken. 23 For I haue alwaies feared God as waues fwelling vpon me, and his weight I could not beare. 24 If I haue thought gold my ftrength, and haue faid to fine gold: My confidence. 25 If I haue reioyfed vpon my great riches, and because my hand found manie thinges. 26 If I faw the funne when it fhined, and the moone going cleerly: 27 and my hart in fecret reioyfed, and I kifsed my hand with my mouth. 28 Which is a)moft great iniquitie, and a denial againft God the moft high? 29 If I haue bene glad of his fal, that hated me, & haue reioyfed that euil had found him. 30 For I haue not geuen my throte to finne, that curfing I wifhed his foule. 31 If the men of my tabernacle haue not fayd: Who wil giue of his flefh that we may be filled? 32 The ftranger taried not without, my doore was open to the wayfaring man. 33 If as man I haue hid my finne, and haue concealed my iniquitie in my bofome. 34 If I haue bene afrayd at a verie great multitude, & the contempt of kinfmen hath terrified me: and I haue not rather held my peace, & not gone out of the doore. 35 Who wil grant me an hearer, that the Omnipotent would heare my defire: and that himfelf that iudgeth would write a booke. 36 That I may carie it on my fhoulder, and put it about me as a crowne? 37 At euerie fteppe of mine I wil pronounce it, and as to the prince I wil offer it. 38 If my Land cry againft me, and with it the furrowes therof lament: 39 If I haue eaten

^a By this demand he prouoked his aduerfaries to produce what they could to conuince him of idolatrie or denying God wherwith they indirectly charged him.

the fruites therof without money, and haue afflicted the
foule of the tillers therof. ⁴⁰ For wheate let the bryar
grow to me, and for barlie the thorne.

The wordes of Iob are ended.

Iob disputed
no more with
his freindes:
but afterward
fubmitted him
felf to God, ac-
knowledging
fome vnaduifed
fpeech. *c. 39.*
v. 37. c. 42.
v. 3.