

Chapter 31

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

I haue ^{a)}made a couenant with mine eyes, that I would not so 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 iniustice? ⁴ Doth not he confider my waies, and number al my steppes? ⁵ If I haue walked in vanitie, and my foote hath hastened in guile: ⁶ let him wey me in a iust balance, and let God know my simplicitie. ⁷ If my steppes haue declined out of the way, and if mine eie hath folowed my hart, and if spotte 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 most great iniquitie. ¹² It is a fire deuoring euen to perdition, and rooting vp al thinges that spring. ¹³ If I haue contemned to abide iudgement with my man seruant, and my mayd seruant, when they had anie controuerfie against me. ¹⁴ For what shal I doe when God shal rife to iudge? and when he shal aske, what shal I answer him? ¹⁵ Did not he make me in the wombe that made him also: 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 Wheras there is a continual warre between a chaift mind and rebellious flesh, holie Iob made this condition of truce betwene these enemies: that his eye should neuer geue occasion to carnal concupiscence.

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

morfel alone, and the pulpil hath not eaten therof with
 me. (18 Becaufe from mine infancie mercy that growen
 with me: and from my mothers wombe it came forth
 with me.) 19 If I haue difpifed him that perifheth, 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 becaufe 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 kifled my
 hand with my mouth. 28 Which is a)moft great iniquitie,
 and a denial againft God the moft high? 29 If I haue
 beene 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
submitted him
self to God, ac-
knowledging
some vnaduifed
speech. *c. 39.*
v. 37. c. 42.
v. 3.