

JOB CHAPTER 6

¹ But Job answered and said, ² "Oh that one would indeed weigh the wrath that is upon me, and take up my grief in a balance together! ³ And surely they would be heavier than the sand by the seashore: but, as it seems, my words are vain. ⁴ For the arrows of the Lord are in my body, whose violence drinks up my blood: whenever I am going to speak, they pierce me. ⁵ What then? Will the wild donkey bray for nothing, if he is not seeking food? Or again, will the ox low at the manger, when he has *his* fodder? ⁶ Shall bread be eaten without salt? Or again, is there taste in empty words? ⁷ For my wrath cannot cease, for I perceive my food as the smell of a lion *to be* loathsome.

⁸ Oh, that He would grant *my desire*, and my petition might come, and the Lord would grant my hope! ⁹ Let the Lord begin to wound me, but let Him not utterly destroy me. ¹⁰ Let the grave be my city, upon the walls of which I have leaped: I will not shrink from it, for I have not denied the holy words of my God. ¹¹ For what is my strength, that I continue? What is my time, that my soul endures? ¹² Is my strength the strength of stones? Or is my flesh of brass? ¹³ Or have I not trusted in Him? But help is *far* from me.

¹⁴ "Mercy has rejected me; and the visitation of the Lord has disregarded me. ¹⁵ My nearest relations have not regarded me, they have passed me by like a failing brook, or like a wave. ¹⁶ They who used to reverence me, now have come against me like snow or congealed ice. ¹⁷ When it has melted at the approach of heat, it is not known what it was. ¹⁸ Thus I also have been deserted of all, and I am ruined, and have become an outcast. ¹⁹ Behold the ways of the Temanites, you that mark the paths of the Sabaeans. ²⁰ They too that trust in cities and riches shall come to shame. ²¹ But you also have come to me without pity; so that beholding my wounds you are afraid. ²² What? Have I made any demand of you? Or do I ask for strength from you, ²³ to deliver me from enemies, or to rescue me from the hand of the mighty ones?

²⁴ "Teach me, and I will be silent: if in anything I have erred, tell me. ²⁵ But as it seems, the words of a true man are vain, because I do not ask strength of you. ²⁶ Neither will your reproof cause me to cease my words, for neither will I endure the sound of your speech. ²⁷ Even because you attack the fatherless, and insult your friend. ²⁸ But now, having looked upon your countenances, I will not lie. ²⁹ Sit down now, and let there not be unrighteousness, and unite again with the just. ³⁰ For there is no injustice in my tongue; and does not my throat meditate understanding?