

JOB CHAPTER 16

¹ But Job answered and said, ² "I have heard many such things: miserable comforters are you all! ³ What! Is there any reason in vain words? Or what will hinder you from answering? ⁴ I also will speak as you do—if indeed your soul were in my *soul's* place, then would I insult you with words, and I would shake my head at you! ⁵ And might that there were strength in my mouth, and I would not spare the movement of my lips.

⁶ "For if I should speak, I shall not feel the pain of my wound, and if I should be silent, how shall I be wounded any less? ⁷ But now He has made me weary, and a worn out fool, and He has laid hold of me. ⁸ My falsehood has become a testimony, and has risen up against me: it has confronted me to my face. ⁹ In His anger He has cast me down; He has gnashed His teeth upon me: the weapons of His robbers have fallen upon me. ¹⁰ He has attacked me with the keen glances of His eyes; with His sharp *spear* He has struck me *down* upon my knees, and they have run upon me with one accord. ¹¹ For the Lord has delivered me into the hands of unrighteous men, and thrown me upon the ungodly. ¹² When I was at peace He distracted me: He took me by the hair of the head, and plucked it out: He set me up as a mark. ¹³ They surrounded me with spears, aiming at my reins: without sparing me they poured out my gall upon the ground. ¹⁴ They overthrew me with fall upon fall: they ran upon me in *their* might. ¹⁵ They sewed sackcloth upon my skin, and my strength has been spent on the ground. ¹⁶ My belly has been parched from wailing, and darkness is on my eyelids. ¹⁷ Yet there was no injustice on my hands, and my prayer is pure.

¹⁸ "Earth, do not cover over the blood of my flesh, and let my cry have no place. ¹⁹ And now, behold, my witness is in heaven, and my Advocate is on high. ²⁰ Let my supplication come to the Lord, and let my eye weep before Him. ²¹ Oh that a man might plead before the Lord, even as the son of man with his neighbor! ²² But my years are numbered and *their end* has come, and I shall go by the way by which I shall not return.