

## JOB CHAPTER 31

<sup>1</sup> "I made a covenant with my eyes, and I will not think upon a virgin. <sup>2</sup> Now what portion has God given from above? And is there an inheritance given from the Mighty One from on high? <sup>3</sup> Alas! Destruction to the unrighteous, and rejection to them that do iniquity! <sup>4</sup> Will He not see my way, and number all my steps? <sup>5</sup> But if I had gone with scorners, and if my foot too has hastened to deceit <sup>6</sup> (for I am weighed in a just balance, and the Lord knows my innocence); <sup>7</sup> if my foot has turned aside out of the way, or if my heart has followed my eye, and if I too have touched gifts with my hands; <sup>8</sup> then let me sow, and let others eat; and let me be uprooted on the earth. <sup>9</sup> If my heart has gone forth after another man's wife, and if I laid wait at her doors; <sup>10</sup> then let my wife also please another, and let my children be brought low. <sup>11</sup> For the rage of anger is not to be controlled, in the case of defiling another man's wife. <sup>12</sup> For it is a fire burning on every side, and whoever it attacks, it utterly destroys. <sup>13</sup> And if I also despised the judgment of my servant or my maid, when they pleaded with me; <sup>14</sup> what then shall I do if the Lord should try me? And if also He should at all visit me, can I make an answer? <sup>15</sup> Were not they formed too, as I also was formed in the womb? Indeed, we were formed in the same womb. <sup>16</sup> But the helpless did not miss whatever need they had, and I did not cause the eye of the widow to fail. <sup>17</sup> And if I also ate my food alone, and did not impart *of it* to the orphan; <sup>18</sup> (for I nourished them as a father from my youth and guided *them* from my mother's womb). <sup>19</sup> And if I too overlooked the naked as he was perishing, and did not clothe him; <sup>20</sup> and if the poor did not bless me, and their shoulders were not warmed with the fleece of my lambs; <sup>21</sup> if I lifted my hand against an orphan, trusting that my strength was far superior *to his*. <sup>22</sup> then let my shoulder start from the blade bone, and my arm be crushed off from the elbow. <sup>23</sup> For the fear of the Lord constrained me, and I cannot bear up by reason of His burden. <sup>24</sup> If I made gold my treasure, and if I too trusted the precious stone; <sup>25</sup> and if I also rejoiced when my wealth was abundant, and if I laid my hand on innumerable *treasures* <sup>26</sup> (do we not see the shining sun eclipsed, and the moon waning? For they have not *power to continue*); <sup>27</sup> and if my heart was secretly deceived, and if I have laid my hand upon my mouth and kissed it: <sup>28</sup> let this also then be reckoned to me as the greatest iniquity: for I *should* have lied against the Lord Most High. <sup>29</sup> And if I too was glad at the fall of my enemies, and my heart said, 'Aha!' <sup>30</sup> Then let my ear hear my curse, and let me be a byword among my people in my affliction. <sup>31</sup> And if my handmaids have often said, 'Oh that we might be satisfied with his flesh' (whereas I was very kind: <sup>32</sup> for the stranger did not lodge without, and my door was opened to everyone that came); <sup>33</sup> or if also having sinned unintentionally, I hid my sin <sup>34</sup> (for I did not stand in awe of a great multitude, so as not to declare boldly before them); and if I also permitted a poor man to go out of my door with an empty bosom— <sup>35</sup> (Oh that I had a hearer!) And if I had not feared the hand of the Lord; and as to the written charge which I had against anyone, <sup>36</sup> I would place it as a chaplet on my shoulders, and read it. <sup>37</sup> And if I did not read it and return it, having taken nothing from the debtor: <sup>38</sup> If at any time the land groaned against me, and if its furrows mourned together; <sup>39</sup> and if I ate its strength alone without price, and if I

too grieved the heart of the owner of the soil, by taking from *him*,<sup>40</sup> then let the thistles come up to me instead of wheat, and a bramble instead of barley." And Job ceased speaking.