

¹وَعَادَ أَيُّوبُ يَنْطِقُ بِمَثَلِهِ فَقَالَ، ²يَا لَيْتَنِي كَمَا فِي الشُّهُورِ السَّالِفَةِ وَكَالْأَيَّامِ الَّتِي حَفِطَنِي اللَّهُ فِيهَا، ³حِينَ أَضَاءَ سِرَاجُهُ عَلَى رَأْسِي وَبُورِهِ سَلَكَتُ الظُّلْمَةَ. ⁴كَمَا كُنْتُ فِي أَيَّامٍ حَرِيفِي وَرِضَا اللَّهِ عَلَى خِيَمَتِي، ⁵وَالْقَدِيرُ بَعْدَ مَعِي وَحَوْلِي غُلَمَائِي، ⁶إِذْ عَسَلْتُ خُطَوَاتِي بِاللَّيْلِ، وَالصَّخْرُ سَكَبَ لِي جَدَاوِلَ رَبِّتٍ. ⁷حِينَ كُنْتُ أَخْرُجُ إِلَى الْبَابِ فِي الْقَرْيَةِ وَأَهْبَيْتُ فِي السَّاحَةِ مَجْلِسِي. ⁸رَأَيْتُ الْغُلَمَانَ فَاخْتَبَأُوا، وَالْأَشْيَاحَ قَامُوا وَوَقَفُوا. ⁹الْعُطَمَاءُ أَمْسَكُوا عَنِ الْكَلَامِ وَوَضَعُوا أَيْدِيَهُمْ عَلَى أَفْوَاهِهِمْ. ¹⁰صَوْتُ الشُّرَفَاءِ اخْتَفَى وَلَصِقَتْ أَلْسِنَتُهُمْ بِأَخْطَاكِهِمْ. ¹¹لَأَنَّ الْأُذُنَ سَمِعَتْ قَطْوَتِي، وَالْعَيْنُ رَأَتْ فَشَهِدَتْ لِي. ¹²لَأَنِّي أَتَقَدَّضُ الْمِسْكِينَ الْمُسْتَغِيثِ وَالْيَتِيمَ وَلَا مُعِينَ لَهُ. ¹³بَرَكَتُهُ الْهَالِكُ خَلَتْ عَنِّي، وَجَعَلْتُ قَلْبَ الْأَرْمَلَةِ يَسْتَرْ. ¹⁴لَيْسَتْ أَلِيَّ فَكَسَانِي. كَجَنَّةٍ وَعِصَامَةٍ كَانَ عَذْلِي. ¹⁵كُنْتُ غُيُونًا لِلْعُمَمِيِّ وَأَرْجُلًا لِلْعُجُرْجِ. ¹⁶أَبُ أَنَا لِلْفُقَرَاءِ، وَدَعَوَى لَمْ أَعْرِفْهَا فَخَصْتُ عَنْهَا. ¹⁷هَشَمْتُ أَصْرَاسَ الطَّالِمِ وَمِنْ بَيْنِ أَسْنَانِيهِ حَطَفْتُ الْقَرِيسَةَ. ¹⁸فَقُلْتُ، إِنِّي فِي وَكْرِي أَسْلَمُ الرُّوحَ، وَمِثْلَ السَّمْنَدِلِ أَكْثُرُ أَيَّامًا. ¹⁹أَضْلِي كَانَ مُنْبَسِطًا إِلَى الْمِيَاهِ، وَالطَّلُّ بَاتَ عَلَى أَغْصَانِي. ²⁰كَرَامَتِي بَقِيَتْ حَذِيئَةً عِنْدِي، وَقَوْسِي تَجَدَّدَتْ فِي يَدِي. ²¹لِي سَمِعُوا وَانْتَضَرُّوا، وَبَصُّوا عِنْدَ مَسُورَتِي. ²²بَعْدَ كَلَامِي لَمْ يُتَنُوا وَقَوْلِي قَطَرَ عَلَيْهِمْ. ²³وَانْتَضَرُّونِي مِثْلَ الْمَطَرِ، وَقَفَعُوا أَفْوَاهَهُمْ كَمَا لِلْمَطَرِ الْمُتَأَخَّرِ. ²⁴إِنْ صَجَكْتُ عَلَيْهِمْ لَمْ يُصَدِّقُوا وَبُورَ وَجْهِ لَمْ يُعَبِّسُوا. ²⁵كُنْتُ أَخْتَارُ طَرِيقَهُمْ وَأَجْلِسُ رَأْسًا وَأَسْكُنُ كَمَلِكٍ فِي جَيْشٍ كَمَنْ يُعَرِّي النَّاجِحِينَ.

¹Moreover Job continued his parable, and said, ²Oh that I were as in months past, as in the days when God preserved me; ³When his candle shined upon my head, and when by his light I walked through darkness; ⁴As I was in the days of my youth, when the secret of God was upon my tabernacle; ⁵When the Almighty was yet with me, when my children were about me; ⁶When I washed my steps with butter, and the rock poured me out rivers of oil; ⁷When I went out to the gate through the city, when I prepared my seat in the street! ⁸The young men saw me, and hid themselves: and the aged arose, and stood up. ⁹The princes refrained talking, and laid their hand on their mouth. ¹⁰The nobles held their peace, and their tongue cleaved to the roof of their mouth. ¹¹When the ear heard me, then it blessed me; and when the eye saw me, it gave witness to me: ¹²Because I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him. ¹³The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me: and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy. ¹⁴I put on righteousness, and it clothed me: my judgment was as a robe and a diadem. ¹⁵I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame. ¹⁶I was a father to the poor: and the cause which I knew not I searched out. ¹⁷And I brake the jaws of the wicked, and plucked the spoil out of his teeth. ¹⁸Then I said, I shall die in my nest, and I shall multiply my days as the sand. ¹⁹My root was spread out by the waters, and the dew lay all night upon my branch. ²⁰My glory was fresh in me, and my

bow was renewed in my hand.²¹ Unto me men gave ear, and waited, and kept silence at my counsel.²² After my words they spake not again; and my speech dropped upon them.²³ And they waited for me as for the rain; and they opened their mouth wide as for the latter rain.²⁴ If I laughed on them, they believed it not; and the light of my countenance they cast not down.²⁵ I chose out their way, and sat chief, and dwelt as a king in the army, as one that comforteth the mourners.