

¹Call now, if there be any that will answer thee; and to which of the saints wilt thou turn?²For wrath killeth the foolish man, and envy slayeth the silly one.³I have seen the foolish taking root: but suddenly I cursed his habitation.⁴His children are far from safety, and they are crushed in the gate, neither is there any to deliver them.⁵Whose harvest the hungry eateth up, and taketh it even out of the thorns, and the robber swalloweth up their substance.⁶Although affliction cometh not forth of the dust, neither doth trouble spring out of the ground;⁷Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward.⁸I would seek unto God, and unto God would I commit my cause:⁹Which doeth great things and unsearchable; marvellous things without number:¹⁰Who giveth rain upon the earth, and sendeth waters upon the fields:¹¹To set up on high those that be low; that those which mourn may be exalted to safety.¹²He disappointeth the devices of the crafty, so that their hands cannot perform their enterprise.¹³He taketh the wise in their own craftiness: and the counsel of the froward is carried headlong.¹⁴They meet with darkness in the daytime, and grope in the noonday as in the night.¹⁵But he saveth the poor from the sword, from their mouth, and from the hand of the mighty.¹⁶So the poor hath hope, and iniquity stoppeth her mouth.¹⁷Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty:¹⁸For he maketh sore, and bindeth up: he woundeth, and his hands make whole.¹⁹He

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shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee.²⁰ In famine he shall redeem thee from death: and in war from the power of the sword.²¹ Thou shalt be hid from the scourge of the tongue: neither shalt thou be afraid of destruction when it cometh.²² At destruction and famine thou shalt laugh: neither shalt thou be afraid of the beasts of the earth.²³ For thou shalt be in league with the stones of the field: and the beasts of the field shall be at peace with thee.²⁴ And thou shalt know that thy tabernacle shall be in peace; and thou shalt visit thy habitation, and shalt not sin.²⁵ Thou shalt know also that thy seed shall be great, and thine offspring as the grass of the earth.²⁶ Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in in his season.²⁷ Lo this, we have searched it, so it is ; hear it, and know thou it for thy good.

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