

¹Then Job answered and said,²I know it is so of a truth: but how should man be just with God?³If he will contend with him, he cannot answer him one of a thousand.⁴He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened himself against him, and hath prospered?⁵Which removeth the mountains, and they know not: which overturneth them in his anger.⁶Which shaketh the earth out of her place, and the pillars thereof tremble.⁷Which commandeth the sun, and it riseth not; and sealeth up the stars.⁸Which alone spreadeth out the heavens, and treadeth upon the waves of the sea.⁹Which maketh Arcturus, Orion, and Pleiades, and the chambers of the south.¹⁰Which doeth great things past finding out; yea, and wonders without number.¹¹Lo, he goeth by me, and I see him not: he passeth on also, but I perceive him not.¹²Behold, he taketh away, who can hinder him? who will say unto him, What doest thou?¹³If God will not withdraw his anger, the proud helpers do stoop under him.¹⁴How much less shall I answer him, and choose out my words to reason with him?¹⁵Whom, though I were righteous, yet would I not answer, but I would make supplication to my judge.¹⁶If I had called, and he had answered me; yet would I not believe that he had hearkened unto my voice.¹⁷For he breaketh me with a tempest, and multiplieth my wounds without cause.¹⁸He will not suffer me to take my breath, but filleth me with bitterness.¹⁹If I speak of strength, lo, he is strong: and if of judgment, who shall set me a time to plead?²⁰If I justify myself,

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mine own mouth shall condemn me: if I say , I am perfect, it shall also prove me perverse.²¹ Though I were perfect, yet would I not know my soul: I would despise my life.²² This is one thing , therefore I said it , He destroyeth the perfect and the wicked.²³ If the scourge slay suddenly, he will laugh at the trial of the innocent.²⁴ The earth is given into the hand of the wicked: he covereth the faces of the judges thereof; if not, where, and who is he?²⁵ Now my days are swifter than a post: they flee away, they see no good.²⁶ They are passed away as the swift ships: as the eagle that hasteth to the prey.²⁷ If I say, I will forget my complaint, I will leave off my heaviness, and comfort myself :²⁸ I am afraid of all my sorrows, I know that thou wilt not hold me innocent.²⁹ If I be wicked, why then labour I in vain?³⁰ If I wash myself with snow water, and make my hands never so clean;³¹ Yet shalt thou plunge me in the ditch, and mine own clothes shall abhor me.³² For he is not a man, as I am, that I should answer him, and we should come together in judgment.³³ Neither is there any daysman betwixt us, that might lay his hand upon us both.³⁴ Let him take his rod away from me, and let not his fear terrify me:³⁵ Then would I speak, and not fear him; but it is not so with me.

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