

¹Then answered Bildad the Shuhite, and said,²How long wilt thou speak these things ? and how long shall the words of thy mouth be like a strong wind?³Doth God pervert judgment? or doth the Almighty pervert justice?⁴If thy children have sinned against him, and he have cast them away for their transgression;⁵If thou wouldest seek unto God betimes, and make thy supplication to the Almighty;⁶If thou wert pure and upright; surely now he would awake for thee, and make the habitation of thy righteousness prosperous.⁷Though thy beginning was small, yet thy latter end should greatly increase.⁸For enquire, I pray thee, of the former age, and prepare thyself to the search of their fathers:⁹(For we are but of yesterday, and know nothing, because our days upon earth are a shadow:)¹⁰Shall not they teach thee, and tell thee, and utter words out of their heart?¹¹Can the rush grow up without mire? can the flag grow without water?¹²Whilst it is yet in his greenness, and not cut down, it withereth before any other herb.¹³So are the paths of all that forget God; and the hypocrite's hope shall perish:¹⁴Whose hope shall be cut off, and whose trust shall be a spider's web.¹⁵He shall lean upon his house, but it shall not stand: he shall hold it fast, but it shall not endure.¹⁶He is green before the sun, and his branch shooteth forth in his garden.¹⁷His roots are wrapped about the heap, and seeth the place of stones.¹⁸If he destroy him from his place, then it shall deny him, saying , I have not seen thee.¹⁹Behold, this is the joy of his way,

and out of the earth shall others grow.²⁰ Behold, God will not cast away a perfect man , neither will he help the evil doers:²¹ Till he fill thy mouth with laughing, and thy lips with rejoicing.²² They that hate thee shall be clothed with shame; and the dwelling place of the wicked shall come to nought.