

¹I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?²For what portion of God is there from above? and what inheritance of the Almighty from on high?³Is not destruction to the wicked? and a strange punishment to the workers of iniquity?⁴Doth not he see my ways, and count all my steps?⁵If I have walked with vanity, or if my foot hath hasted to deceit;⁶Let me be weighed in an even balance, that God may know mine integrity.⁷If my step hath turned out of the way, and mine heart walked after mine eyes, and if any blot hath cleaved to mine hands;⁸Then let me sow, and let another eat; yea, let my offspring be rooted out.⁹If mine heart have been deceived by a woman, or if I have laid wait at my neighbour's door;¹⁰Then let my wife grind unto another, and let others bow down upon her.¹¹For this is an heinous crime; yea, it is an iniquity to be punished by the judges.¹²For it is a fire that consumeth to destruction, and would root out all mine increase.¹³If I did despise the cause of my manservant or of my maidservant, when they contended with me;¹⁴What then shall I do when God riseth up? and when he visiteth, what shall I answer him?¹⁵Did not he that made me in the womb make him? and did not one fashion us in the womb?¹⁶If I have withheld the poor from their desire, or have caused the eyes of the widow to fail;¹⁷Or have eaten my morsel myself alone, and the fatherless hath not eaten thereof;¹⁸(For from my youth he was brought up with me, as with a father, and I have guided her from my mother's

womb;)¹⁹If I have seen any perish for want of clothing, or any poor without covering;²⁰If his loins have not blessed me, and if he were not warmed with the fleece of my sheep;²¹If I have lifted up my hand against the fatherless, when I saw my help in the gate:²²Then let mine arm fall from my shoulder blade, and mine arm be broken from the bone.²³For destruction from God was a terror to me, and by reason of his highness I could not endure.²⁴If I have made gold my hope, or have said to the fine gold, Thou art my confidence;²⁵If I rejoiced because my wealth was great, and because mine hand had gotten much;²⁶If I beheld the sun when it shined, or the moon walking in brightness;²⁷And my heart hath been secretly enticed, or my mouth hath kissed my hand:²⁸This also were an iniquity to be punished by the judge: for I should have denied the God that is above.²⁹If I rejoiced at the destruction of him that hated me, or lifted up myself when evil found him:³⁰Neither have I suffered my mouth to sin by wishing a curse to his soul.³¹If the men of my tabernacle said not, Oh that we had of his flesh! we cannot be satisfied.³²The stranger did not lodge in the street: but I opened my doors to the traveller.³³If I covered my transgressions as Adam, by hiding mine iniquity in my bosom:³⁴Did I fear a great multitude, or did the contempt of families terrify me, that I kept silence, and went not out of the door?³⁵Oh that one would hear me! behold, my desire is, that the Almighty would answer me, and that mine adversary had

written a book.³⁶ Surely I would take it upon my shoulder, and bind it as a crown to me.³⁷ I would declare unto him the number of my steps; as a prince would I go near unto him.³⁸ If my land cry against me, or

that the furrows likewise thereof complain;³⁹ If I have eaten the fruits thereof without money, or have caused the owners thereof to lose their life:⁴⁰ Let thistles grow instead of wheat, and cockle instead of barley. The words of Job are ended.