**CHAPTER** **23**

*Job wishes to be tried at God’s tribunal.*

**1** Then Job answered, and said:

**2** Now also my words are in bitterness, and the hand of my scourge is more grievous than my mourning.

**3** Who will grant me that I might know and find him, and come even to his throne?

**4** I would set judgment before him, and would fill my mouth with complaints.

**5** That I might know the words that he would answer me, and understand what he would say to me.

**6** I would not that he should contend with me with much strength, nor overwhelm me with the weight of his greatness.

**7** Let him propose equity against me, and let my judgment come to victory.

**8** But if I go to the east, he appeareth not; if to the west, I shall not understand him.

**9** If to the left hand, what shall I do? I shall not take hold on him: if I turn myself to the right hand, I shall not see him.

**10** But he knoweth my way, and has tried me as gold that passeth through the fire:

**11** My foot hath followed his steps, I have kept his way, and have not declined from it.

**12** I have not departed from the commandments of his lips, and the words of his mouth I have hid in my bosom.

**13** For he is alone, and no man can turn away his thought: and whatsoever his soul hath desired, that hath he done.

**14** And when he shall have fulfilled his will in me, many other like things are also at hand with him.

**15** And therefore I am troubled at his presence, and when I consider him I am made pensive with fear.

**16** God hath softened my heart, and the Almighty hath troubled me.

**17** For I have not perished because of the darkness that hangs over me, neither hath the mist covered my face.