**CHAPTER** **31**

*Job, to defend himself from the unjust judgments of his friends, gives a sincere account of his own virtues.*

**1** I MADE a covenant with my eyes, that I would not so much as think upon a virgin.

**2** For what part should God from above have in me, and what inheritance the Almighty from on high?

**3** Is not destruction to the wicked, and aversion to them that work iniquity?

**4** Doth not he consider my ways, and number all my steps?

**5** If I have walked in vanity, and my foot hath made haste to deceit:

**6** Let him weigh me in a just balance, and let God know my simplicity.

**7** If my step hath turned out of the way, and if my heart hath followed my eyes, and if a spot hath cleaved to my hands:

**8** Then let me sow and let another eat: and let my offspring be rooted out.

**9** If my heart hath been deceived upon a woman, and if I have laid wait at my friend’s door:

**10** Let my wife be the harlot of another, and let other men lie with her.

**11** For this is a heinous crime, and a most grievous iniquity.

**12** It is a fire that devoureth even to destruction, and rooteth up all things that spring.

**13** If I have despised to abide judgment with my manservant, or my maidservant, when they had any controversy against me:

**14** For what shall I do when God shall rise to judge? and when he shall examine, what shall I answer him?

**15** Did not he that made me in the womb make him also: and did not one and the same form me in the womb?

**16** If I have denied to the poor what they desired, and have made the eyes of the widow wait:

**17** If I have eaten my morsel alone, and the fatherless hath not eaten thereof:

**18** (For from my infancy mercy grew up with me: and it came out with me from my mother’s womb:)

**19** If I have despised him that was perishing for want of clothing, and the poor man that had no covering:

**20** If his sides have not blessed me, and if he were not warmed with the fleece of my sheep:

**21** If I have lifted up my hand against the fatherless, even when I saw myself superior in the gate:

**22** Let my shoulder fall from its joint, and let my arm with its bones be broken.

**23** For I have always feared God as waves swelling over me, and his weight I was not able to bear.

**24** If I have thought gold my strength, and have said to fine gold: My confidence:

**25** If I have rejoiced over my great riches, and because my hand had gotten much.

**26** If I beheld the sun when it shined, and the moon going in brightness:

**27** And my heart in secret hath rejoiced, and I have kissed my hand with my mouth:

**28** Which is a very great iniquity, and a denial against the most high God.

**29** If I have been glad at the downfall of him that hated me, and have rejoiced that evil had found him.

**30** For I have not given my mouth to sin, by wishing a curse to his soul.

**31** If the men of my tabernacle have not said: Who will give us of his flesh that we may be filled?

**32** The stranger did not stay without, my door was open to the traveller.

**33** If as a man I have hid my sin, and have concealed my iniquity in my bosom.

**34** If I have been afraid at a very great multitude, and the contempt of kinsmen hath terrified me: and I have not rather held my peace, and not gone out of the door.

**35** Who would grant me a hearer, that the Almighty may hear my desire; and that he himself that judgeth would write a book,

**36** That I may carry it on my shoulder, and put it about me as a crown?

**37** At every step of mine I would pronounce it, and offer it as to a prince.

**38** If my land cry against me, and with it the furrows thereof mourn:

**39** If I have eaten the fruits thereof without money, and have afflicted the soul of the tillers thereof:

**40** Let thistles grow up to me instead of wheat, and thorns instead of barley.