**CHAPTER** **21**

*Jobs shews that the wicked often prosper in this world, even to the end of their life: but that their judgment is in another world.*

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

**2** Hear, I beseech you, my words, and do penance.

**3** Suffer me, and I will speak, and after, if you please, laugh at my words.

**4** Is my debate against man, that I should not have just reason to be troubled?

**5** Hearken to me and be astonished, and lay your finger on your mouth.

**6** As for me, when I remember, I am afraid, and trembling taketh hold on my flesh.

**7** Why then do the wicked live, are they advanced, and strengthened with riches?

**8** Their seed continueth before them, a multitude of kinsmen, and of children’s children in their sight.

**9** Their houses are secure and peaceable, and the rod of God is not upon them.

**10** Their cattle have conceived, and failed not: their cow has calved, and is not deprived of her fruit.

**11** Their little ones go out like a flock, and their children dance and play.

**12** They take the timbrel, and the harp, and rejoice at the sound of the organ.

**13** They spend their days in wealth, and in a moment they go down to hell.

**14** Who have said to God: Depart from us, we desire not the knowledge of thy ways.

**15** Who is the Almighty, that we should serve him? and what doth it profit us if we pray to him?

**16** Yet because their good things are not in their hand, may the counsel of the wicked be far from me.

**17** How often shall the lamp of the wicked be put out, and a deluge come upon them, and he shall distribute the sorrows of his wrath?

**18** They shall be as chaff before the face of the wind, and as ashes which the whirlwind scattereth.

**19** God shall lay up the sorrow of the father for his children: and when he shall repay, then shall he know.

**20** His eyes shall see his own destruction, and he shall drink of the wrath of the Almighty.

**21** For what is it to him what befalleth his house after him: and if the number of his months be diminished by one half?

**22** Shall any one teach God knowledge, who judgeth those that are high?

**23** One man dieth strong, and hale, rich and happy.

**24** His bowels are full of fat, and his bones are moistened with marrow.

**25** But another dieth in bitterness of soul without any riches:

**26** And yet they shall sleep together in the dust, and worms shall cover them.

**27** Surely I know your thoughts, and your unjust judgments against me.

**28** For you say: Where is the house of the prince? and where are the dwelling places of the wicked?

**29** Ask any one of them that go by the way, and you shall perceive that he knoweth these same things.

**30** Because the wicked man is reserved to the day of destruction, and he shall be brought to the day of wrath.

**31** Who shall reprove his way to his face? and who shall repay him what he hath done?

**32** He shall be brought to the graves, and shall watch in the heap of the dead.

**33** He hath been acceptable to the gravel of Cocytus, and he shall draw every man after him, and there are innumerable before him.

**34** How then do ye comfort me in vain, whereas your answer is shewn to be repugnant to truth?