. Job 16

New King James Version (NKJV)

. Job 16

Job Reproaches His Pitiless Friends

. 1 Then Job answered and said:

. 2 "I have heard many such things;
Miserable comforters are you all!

. 3 Shall words of wind have an end?
Or what provokes you that you answer?

. 4 I also could speak as you do,
If your soul were in my soul's place. I could heap up words against you, And shake my head at you;

. 5 But I would strengthen you with my mouth,
And the comfort of my lips would relieve your grief.

. 6 " Though I speak, my grief is not relieved; And if I remain silent, how am I eased?

.   7 But now He has worn me out;
You have made desolate all my company.

.   8 You have shriveled me up,
And it is a witness against me; My leanness
rises up against me

.   And bears witness to my face.

.   9 He tears me in His wrath, and hates
me; He gnashes at me with His teeth;
My adversary sharpens His gaze on me.

.   10 They gape at me with their mouth,
They strike me reproachfully on the cheek,
They gather together against me.

.   11 God has delivered me to the ungodly,
And turned me over to the hands of the
wicked.

.   12 I was at ease, but He has shattered me;
He also has taken me by my neck, and
shaken me to

.   pieces;
He has set me up for His target,

   . 13 His archers surround me.
He pierces my heart and does not pity; He pours out my gall on the ground.

   . 14 He breaks me with wound upon wound;
He runs at me like a warrior.

   . 15 "I have sewn sackcloth over my skin,
And laid my head in the dust.

   . 16 My face is flushed from weeping,
And on my eyelids is the shadow of death;

   . 17 Although no violence is in my hands,
And my prayer is pure.

   . 18 "O earth, do not cover my blood, And let

my cry have no resting place!

. 19 Surely even now my witness is in
heaven, And my evidence is on high.

. 20 My friends scorn me;
My eyes pour out tears to God.

. 21 Oh, that one might plead for a man with
God, As a man pleads for his neighbor!

. 22 For when a few years are finished, I
shall go the way of no return.

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