

MAN'S UPRIGHTNESS AND GOD'S SALVATION.

(JOB XXXIII).

IT is often a long time before a soul that has known something of the graciousness of God is brought, thoroughly and practically in conscience, to bow to the truth of its condition before Him as He reveals it, and so to be cast over, simply and entirely on grace. But to this, sooner or later, God does bring every soul that has to do with Him. This chapter reveals to us the way in which God brings about this blessed result for man, till then ignorant of Him and of himself. He speaks once and again, but man heeds it not. Then He makes His hand to be felt, as in Ps. xxxii., and for the same reason—because the soul is keeping silence and refusing to own sin. He lets the light of His holiness shine in and reach the conscience, and the life draws near the grave. But all this is God's own work in grace, to give man the consciousness of what he is before Him, and to put the truth into him; to bring him to be in the true knowledge and acknowledgement of what he, a sinner and a creature is, in the presence of a God of holiness and grace, whom he has despised and neglected. This is the first thing.

Then secondly, a messenger comes; not to speak of *grace* in this instance, but of *truth*. And O! how