

PROLOGUE TO THE WISDOM OF SIRACH

Whereas many and great things have been delivered unto us by the law and the prophets, and by others that have followed their steps, for the which things Israel ought to be commended for learning and wisdom; and whereof not only the readers must needs become skilful themselves, but also they that desire to learn to be able to profit them which are without, both by speaking and writing: my grandfather Jesus, when he had much given himself to the reading of the law, and the prophets, and other books of our fathers, and had gotten therein good judgment, was drawn on also himself to write something pertaining to learning and wisdom; to the intent that those which are lovers of learning, when they are addicted to these things, might profit much more in living according to the law. Wherefore you are intreated to read it with favour and attention, and to be forbearing in instances wherein we may seem to come short of some words, which we have laboured to interpret. For the same things uttered in Hebrew, and translated into another tongue, have not the same force in them: and not only these things, but the law itself, and the prophets, and the rest of the books, have no small difference, when they are spoken in their own language. For in the eight and thirtieth year coming into Egypt, when Euergetes was king, and continuing there some time, I found a book of no small learning: therefore I thought it most necessary for me to bestow some diligence and travail to interpret it; using great watchfulness and skill in that space to bring the book to an end, and set it forth for them also, which in a strange country are willing to learn, being prepared before in manners to live after the law.

THE WISDOM OF SIRACH

CHAPTER 1

All wisdom *cometh* from the Lord, and is with Him for ever. ²Who can number the sand of the seas, and the drops of rain, and the days of eternity? ³Who can find out the height of heaven, and the breadth of the earth, and the deep, and wisdom? ⁴Wisdom hath been created before all things, and the understanding of prudence from everlasting. (⁵The word of the Lord is the fountain of wisdom, and her ways are everlasting commandments.) ⁶To whom hath the root of wisdom been revealed? or who hath known her wise counsels? (⁷Unto whom hath the knowledge of wisdom been made manifest? and who hath understood her great experience?) ⁸There is One wise and greatly to be feared, He that sitteth upon His throne. ⁹The Lord Himself created her, and saw her, and numbered her, and poured her out upon all His works, ¹⁰in the midst of all flesh according to His gift, and He hath furnished her abundantly to them that love Him. ¹¹The fear of the Lord is glory, and

boasting, and gladness, and a crown of rejoicing. ¹²The fear of the Lord will delight the heart, and it giveth joy, and gladness, and long life. ¹³Unto him that feareth the Lord, it shall go well with him at the last, and he shall be blessed in the day of his death. ¹⁴To fear the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and she was created with the faithful in the womb. ¹⁵She hath built an everlasting foundation among men, and she shall be trusted among their seed. ¹⁶To fear the Lord is the fulness of wisdom, and she inebriateth them with her fruits. ¹⁷She filleth all their house with things desirable, and the garners with her increase. ¹⁸The fear of the Lord is a crown of wisdom, making peace and perfect health to flourish. ¹⁹And He saw, and numbered her, and she rained down skill and knowledge of understanding, and exalted them to honour that hold her fast. ²⁰The root of wisdom is to fear the Lord, and the branches thereof are length of days. ²¹The fear of the Lord driveth away sins, and when it endureth, it will turn away all wrath. ²²Unjust anger cannot be justified; for the sway of his fury is his destruction. ²²A patient man will hold him fast until the due season, and afterward joy shall spring up unto him. ²⁴He will hide his words until the due season, and the lips of many shall declare his wisdom. ²⁵The parables of knowledge are in the treasures of wisdom: but godliness is an abomination to a sinner. ²⁶If thou desire wisdom, keep the commandments, and the Lord shall furnish her abundantly unto thee. ²⁷For the fear of the Lord is wisdom and instruction: and faith and meekness are His delight. ²⁸Disobey not the fear of the Lord when thou art poor; and come not unto Him with a double heart. ²⁹Be not an hypocrite in the sight of men, and take good heed with thy lips. ³⁰Exalt not thyself, lest thou fall, and bring dishonour upon thy soul, and so the Lord discover thy secrets, and cast thee down in the midst of the congregation, because thou camest not in the fear of the Lord, and thy heart was full of deceit.

CHAPTER 2

¹My son, if thou come to be subject unto the Lord, prepare thy soul for temptation. ²Set thy heart aright, and be steadfast, and make not haste in a time of trouble. ³Cleave unto Him, and depart not away, that thou mayest be strengthened at thy last end. ⁴Whatsoever is brought upon thee, take cheerfully, and be patient when thou art changed to a low estate. ⁵For gold is tried in the fire, and acceptable men in the furnace of adversity. ⁶Believe in Him, and He will help thee; make thy ways straight, and hope in Him. ⁷Ye that fear the Lord, wait for His mercy; and turn not aside, lest ye fall. ⁸Ye that fear the Lord, believe in Him; and your reward shall not fail. ⁹Ye that fear the Lord, hope for good things, and for everlasting joy and mercy. ¹⁰Look at the generations of old, and see; who believed in the Lord, and was ashamed? or who held fast in His fear, and was forsaken? or who called upon Him, and was despised? ¹¹For the Lord is full of compassion and mercy, longsuffering, and very pitiful, and forgiveth sins, and saveth in time of affliction. ¹²Woe be to fearful hearts, and faint hands, and the sinner that goeth two ways! ¹³Woe

to a faint heart! for it believeth not; therefore shall it not be sheltered. ¹⁴Woe unto you that have lost your patient endurance! and what will ye do when the Lord shall visit you? ¹⁵They that fear the Lord will not disobey His words; and they that love Him will keep His ways. ¹⁶They that seek the Lord will seek His favour; and they that love Him shall be filled with the law. ¹⁷They that fear the Lord will prepare their hearts, and humble their souls in His sight. ¹⁸We will fall into the hands of the Lord, and not into the hands of men: for as His majesty is, so is His mercy.

CHAPTER 3

Hear me your father, O children, and do thereafter, that ye may be safe. ²For the Lord hath given the father honour over the children, and hath strengthened the authority of the mother over the sons. ³Whoso honoureth his father maketh an atonement for his sins: ⁴and he that honoureth his mother is as one that layeth up treasure. ⁵Whoso honoureth his father shall have joy of his own children; and when he maketh his prayer, he shall be heard. ⁶He that honoureth his father shall have a long life; and he that heareth the Lord shall give rest unto his mother, ⁷and will do service unto his parents, as to his masters. ⁸Honour thy father and mother both in word and deed, that a blessing may come upon thee from him. ⁹For the blessing of a father establisheth the houses of children; but the curse of a mother rooteth out foundations. ¹⁰Glory not in the dishonour of thy father; for thy father's dishonour is no glory unto thee. ¹¹For the glory of a man is from the honour of his father; and a mother in dishonour is a reproach to the children. ¹²My son, help thy father in his old age, and grieve him not as long during his life. ¹³And if his understanding fail, have patience with him; and despise him not when thou art in thy full strength. ¹⁴For charity toward a father shall not be forgotten: and it shall be added to thee instead of sins. ¹⁵In the day of thine affliction it shall be remembered; thy sins also shall melt away, as the frost in the fair warm weather. ¹⁶He that forsaketh his father is as a blasphemer; and he that angereth his mother is cursed of God. ¹⁷My son, go with thy business in meekness; and thou shalt be beloved of him that is approved. ¹⁸The greater thou art, the more thou shouldest humble thyself, and thou shalt find favour before the Lord. ²⁰For the power of the Lord is great, and He is honoured of the lowly. ²¹Seek not the things that are too hard for thee, neither search the things that are above thy strength. ²²The things that are commanded thee, think thereupon; for the things that are secret are not needful for thee. ²³Be not curious in unnecessary matters; for more things are shewed unto thee than men understand. ²⁴For many are deceived by their own presuming; and an evil suppositions have overthrown their judgment. (²⁵Without eyes thou shalt want light: profess not the knowledge therefore that thou hast not.) ²⁶A hard heart shall fare evil at the last; and he that loveth danger shall perish therein. ²⁷An hard heart shall be laden with troubles; and the sinful man shall heap sin upon sin. ²⁸For the misery of the

proud there is no healing; for a plant of wickedness hath taken root in him. ²⁹The heart of the intelligent will ponder a parable; and the ear of an hearer is the desire of a wise man. ³⁰Water will quench a blazing fire; and alms will make an atonement for sins. ³¹And he that requiteth good turns is mindful of that which may come hereafter; and when he falleth, he shall find a stay.

CHAPTER 4

My son, defraud not the poor of his living, and make not the needy eyes to wait long. ²Make not an hungry soul sorrowful; neither provoke a man in his distress. ³Add not trouble to an heart that is vexed; and defer not to give to him that is in need. ⁴Reject not the suppliant in his affliction; neither turn away thy face from a poor man. ⁵Turn not away thine eye from the needy, and give him none occasion to curse thee: ⁶for if he curse thee in the bitterness of his soul, his prayer shall be heard of Him that made him. ⁷Make thyself beloved of the congregation, and bow thy head to a great man. ⁸Bow down thine ear to the poor, and give him answer peaceably with meekness. ⁹Deliver him that suffereth wrong from the hand of the wrongdoer; and not be fainthearted when thou sittest in judgment. ¹⁰Be as a father unto the fatherless, and instead of an husband unto their mother; and thou shalt be as the son of the Most High, and He shall love thee more than thy mother doth.

¹¹Wisdom exalteth her children, and layeth hold of them that seek her. ¹²He that loveth her loveth life; and they that seek to her early shall be filled with joy. ¹³He that holdeth her fast shall inherit glory; and wheresoever she entereth, the Lord will bless. ¹⁴They that serve her shall minister to the Holy One: and them that love her the Lord doth love. ¹⁵Whoso obeyeth her shall judge the nations: and he that attendeth unto her shall dwell in confidence. ¹⁶If a man trusteth in her, he shall inherit her; and his posterity shall hold her in possession. ¹⁷For at the first she will walk with him by crooked ways, and bring fear and dread upon him, and torment him with her discipline, until she may trust his soul, and try him by her statutes. ¹⁸Then will she return the straight way unto him, and make him glad, and shew him her secrets. ¹⁹But if he go astray, she will forsake him, and give him over to his own ruin.

²⁰Observe the opportunity, and beware of evil; and be not ashamed when it concerneth thy soul. ²¹For there is a shame that bringeth sin; and there is a shame which is glory and grace. ²²Accept no person against thy soul, and let not your reverence for any man cause thee to fall. ²³And refrain not to speak in a time of need; ²⁴for by speech wisdom shall be known: and learning by the word of the tongue. ²⁵Speak not against the truth; and be abashed for thine ignorance. ²⁶Be not ashamed to confess thy sins, and force not the course of the river. ²⁷Make not thyself subject to a foolish man; neither accept the person of a ruler. ²⁸Strive for the truth unto death, and the Lord God shall fight for thee. ²⁹Be not rash in thy tongue, and in thy deeds

slack and remiss. ³⁰Be not as a lion in thy house, nor imagine vain fancies among thy servants. ³¹Let not thine hand be stretched out to receive, and shut when thou shouldest repay.

CHAPTER 5

Set not thy heart upon thy goods; and say not, I am sufficient enough. ²Follow not thine own soul and thy strength, to walk in the desires of thine heart: ³and say not, Who shall controul me for my works? for the Lord will surely punish. ⁴Say not, I have sinned, and what hath happened unto me? for the Lord is longsuffering. ⁵Concerning propitiation, be not without fear to add sin unto sin: ⁶and say not, His compassion is great; it will atone for the multitude of my sins: for mercy and wrath come from Him, and His indignation resteth upon sinners. ⁷Make no tarrying to turn to the Lord, and put it not off from day to day: for suddenly shall the wrath of the Lord come forth, and in the day of vengeance thou shalt perish, and perish in the day of vengeance. ⁸Set not thy heart upon riches unjustly gotten; for it shall not profit thee in the day of distress. ⁹Winnow not with every wind, and go not into every way: for so doth the sinner that hath a double tongue. ¹⁰Be stedfast in thine understanding; and let thy word be one. ¹¹Be swift in your hearing; and with patience give answer. ¹²If thou hast understanding, answer thy neighbour; if not, let thine hand be upon thy mouth. ¹³Repute and dishonour is in talk: and the tongue of man is his fall. ¹⁴Be not called a slanderer, and lie not in wait with thy tongue: for a foul shame is upon the thief, and an evil condemnation upon the double tongued. ¹⁵Be not ignorant in a matter small or great.

CHAPTER 6

Instead of a friend become not an enemy; for an ill name shall inherit shame, and reproach: even so is a sinner that hath a double tongue. ²Exalt not thyself in the counsel of thine own heart; lest thy soul be torn in pieces as by a bull. ³Thou shalt eat up thy leaves, and lose thy fruit, and leave thyself as a withered tree. ⁴A wicked soul shall destroy him that hath it, and shall make him to be laughed to scorn of his enemies.

⁵A sweet tongue will multiply his friends: and a fair speaking tongue will increase kind greetings. ⁶Let those that be at peace with you be many: nevertheless let your counsellors be one in a thousand. ⁷If thou wouldest get a friend, get him by proving him first, and be not hasty to credit him. ⁸For there is a friend for his own occasion, and he will not abide in the day of thy trouble. ⁹And there is a friend, who turneth to enmity, and he will discover strife to thy reproach. ¹⁰Again, some friend is a companion at the table, and will not continue in the day of affliction. ¹¹But in thy prosperity he will be as thyself, and will be bold over thy servants. ¹²If thou be brought low, he will be

against thee, and will hide himself from thy face. ¹³Separate thyself from thine enemies, and take heed of thy friends. ¹⁴A faithful friend is a strong shelter: and he that hath found such an one hath found a treasure. ¹⁵Nothing doth countervail a faithful friend, and none can weigh his excellency. ¹⁶A faithful friend is the medicine of life; and they that fear the Lord shall find Him. ¹⁷Whoso feareth the Lord directeth his friendship aright: for as he is, so shall his neighbour be also.

¹⁸My son, gather instruction from thy youth up, and thou shalt find wisdom till thine old age. ¹⁹Come unto her as one that ploweth and soweth, and wait for her good fruits: for thou shalt toil little in labouring about her, but thou shalt eat of her fruits right soon. ²⁰She is very harsh to the unlearned; and he that lacketh heart will not remain with her. ²¹She will lie upon him as a mighty stone of trial; and he will cast her from him ere it be long. ²²For wisdom is according to her name, and she is not manifest unto many. ²³Give ear, my son, receive my advice, and refuse not my counsel, ²⁴and put thy feet into her fetters, and thy neck into her collar. ²⁵Offer thy shoulder, and bear her, and be not grieved with her bonds. ²⁶Come unto her with thy whole heart, and keep her ways with all thy power. ²⁷Search, and seek, and she shall be made known unto thee: and when thou hast got hold of her, let her not go. ²⁸For at the last thou shalt find her rest, and that shall be turned into thy joy. ²⁹Then shall her fetters be a strong defence for thee, and her collars a robe of glory. ³⁰For there is a golden ornament upon her, and her bands are a blue thread. ³¹Thou shalt wear her as a robe of glory, and put her about thee as a crown of joy. ³²My son, if thou wilt, thou shalt be taught: and if thou wilt apply thy mind, thou shalt be prudent. ³³If thou love to hear, thou shalt receive; and if thou bow thine ear, thou shalt be wise. ³⁴Stand in the multitude of the elders; and whoso is wise, cleave unto him. ³⁵Be willing to hear every godly discourse: and let not the proverbs of understanding escape thee. ³⁶And if thou seest a man of understanding, get thee betimes unto him, and let thy foot wear the threshold of his door. ³⁷Set thy mind upon the ordinances of the Lord, and meditate continually in His commandments. He shall establish thine heart, and the desire of wisdom shall be given thee.

CHAPTER 7

Do no evil things, and there shall no evil overtake thee. ²Depart from wrongdoing, and it shall turn away from thee. ³My son, sow not upon the furrows of unrighteousness, and thou shalt not reap them sevenfold. ⁴Seek not of the Lord authority, neither of a king the seat of honour. ⁵Justify Declare not thyself to be righteous before the Lord; and shew not thy wisdom before a king. ⁶Seek not to be judge, if thou be not strong enough to take away iniquity; lest at any time thou fear the presence of the mighty, and lay a stumblingblock in the way of thine uprightness. ⁷Sin not against the multitude of a city, and cast not thyself down among the people. ⁸Bind not

one sin upon another; for in one thou shalt not be unpunished. ⁹Say not, He will look for the multitude of my oblations, and when I bring an offering to the Most High God, He will accept it. ¹⁰Be not fainthearted in thy prayer, and neglect not to give alms. ¹¹Laugh no man to scorn in the bitterness of his soul: for there is One Which humbleth and exalteth. ¹²Devise not a lie against thy brother; neither do the like to thy friend. ¹³Use not to make any manner of lie: for the custom of lying is never good. ¹⁴Use not many words in a multitude of elders, and repeat not thyself in thy prayer. ¹⁵Hate not laborious work, neither husbandry, which the Most High hath ordained. ¹⁶Number not thyself among the multitude of sinners, but remember that wrath will not tarry long. ¹⁷Humble thy soul greatly: for the punishment of the ungodly is fire and worms.

¹⁸Change not a friend for goods; neither a faithful brother for the gold of Ophir. ¹⁹Fail not a wise and good woman: for her grace is above gold. ²⁰Entreat not thy servant evil that worketh truly, neither an hireling that bestoweth himself wholly for thee. ²¹Let thy soul love an intelligent servant, and defraud him not of liberty. ²²Hast thou cattle? have an eye to them: and if they be for thy profit, let them remain with thee. ²³Hast thou children? instruct them, and bow down their neck from their youth. ²⁴Hast thou daughters? have a care of their body, and brighten not thy face toward them. ²⁵Give a daughter in marriage, and so shalt thou have performed a great matter: and give her to a man of understanding. ²⁶Hast thou a wife after thy mind? forsake her not.

²⁷Honour thy father with thy whole heart, and forget not the birth pangs of thy mother. ²⁸Remember that thou wast begotten of them; and how canst thou recompense them that they have done for thee? ²⁹Fear the Lord with all thy soul, and reverence His priests. ³⁰Love Him that made thee with all thy strength, and forsake not His ministers. ³¹Fear the Lord, and honour a priest: and give him his portion, as it is commanded thee: the firstfruits, and the trespass offering, and the gift of the shoulders, and the sacrifice of sanctification, and the firstfruits of the holy things.

³²And stretch thine hand unto the poor, that thy blessing may be completed. ³³The kindness of a gift is in the sight of every man living; and for the dead detain not kindness. ³⁴Withhold not thyself from them that weep, and mourn with them that mourn. ³⁵Be not slow to visit the sick: for by such deeds shalt thou be beloved. ³⁶In all thy words, remember the end, and thou shalt never do amiss.

CHAPTER 8

Strive not with a mighty man, lest thou fall into his hands. ²Be not at variance with a rich man, lest he overweigh thee: for gold hath destroyed many, and perverted the hearts of kings. ³Strive not with a man that is full of tongue, and heap not wood upon his fire. ⁴Jest not with a rude man, lest thine ancestors be disgraced. ⁵Reproach not a man that turneth from sin, but

remember that we are all worthy of rebuke. ⁶Dishonour not a man in his old age: for even some of us wax old. ⁷Rejoice not over any man being dead, but remember that we die all. ⁸Despise not the discourse of the wise, but acquaint thyself with their proverbs: for of them that shalt learn instruction, and how to serve great men with ease. ⁹Miss not the discourse of elders: for they also learned of their fathers, and of them thou shalt learn understanding, and to give answer as need requireth. ¹⁰Kindle not the coals of a sinner, for thou mayest be burned with the flame of his fire. ¹¹Rise not up at the presence of an injurious person, lest he lie in wait as an ambush against thy words. ¹²Lend not unto him that is mightier than thyself; for if thou do, count it but lost. ¹³Be not surety above thy power: for if thou be surety, take care as he that payeth it. ¹⁴Go not to law with a judge; for they will judge for him according to his honour. ¹⁵Travel not by the way with a bold fellow, lest he weigh thee down: for he will do according to his own will, and thou shalt perish with him through his own folly. ¹⁶Strive not with an angry man, and go not with him into a solitary place: for blood is as nothing in his sight; and where there is no help, he will cast thee down. ¹⁷Consult not with a fool; for he cannot keep counsel. ¹⁸Do no secret thing before a stranger; for thou knowest not what he will bring forth. ¹⁹Open not thine heart to every man, lest he requite thee with a shrewd turn.

CHAPTER 9

Be not jealous over the wife of thy bosom, and teach her not an evil lesson against thyself. ²Give not thy soul unto a woman to set her foot upon thy strength. ³Meet not with an harlot, lest thou fall into her snares. ⁴Use not the company of a woman that is a singer, lest thou be caught in her endeavours. ⁵Gaze not upon a maid, lest thou be made to stumble by her rebukes. ⁶Give not thy soul unto harlots, lest thou lose thine inheritance. ⁷Look not round about thee in the streets of the city, neither wander thou in the solitary places thereof. ⁸Turn away thine eye from a shapely woman, and look not upon another's beauty; for many have been deceived by the beauty of a woman; for herewith love is kindled as a fire. ⁹Sit not at all with another man's wife, and feast not with her at the wine; lest thine heart incline unto her, and so through thy desire thou fall into destruction. ¹⁰Forsake not an old friend; for the new is not equal to him: a new friend is as new wine; when it is old, thou shalt drink it with pleasure. ¹¹Envy not the glory of a sinner: for thou knowest not what shall be his end. ¹²Delight not in the thing that the ungodly have pleasure in; but remember they shall not be called righteous even in Hades. ¹³Keep thee far from the man that hath power to kill; and so shalt thou not be disquieted of the fear of death: and if thou come unto him, make no fault, lest he take away thy life: remember that thou goest in the midst of snares, and that thou walkest upon the battlements of the city. ¹⁴As near as thou canst, guess at thy neighbour, and consult with the wise. ¹⁵Let thy talk be with the wise, and all thy communication in the law of the Most

High. ¹⁶And let just men eat and drink with thee; and let thy glorying be in the fear of the Lord. ¹⁷For the hand of the artificer the work shall be commended: and the wise ruler of the people for his speech. ¹⁸A man of many words is feared in his city; and he that is rash in his talk shall be hated.

CHAPTER 10

A wise judge will instruct his people; and the government of a prudent man is well ordered. ²As the judge of the people is himself, so are his officers; and what manner of man the ruler of the city is, such are all they that dwell therein. ³An unwise king destroyeth his people; but through the prudence of them which are in authority the city shall be inhabited. ⁴The authority of the earth is in the hand of the Lord, and in due time He will set over it one that is profitable. ⁵In the hand of the Lord is the success of a man: and upon the person of the scribe shall He lay His honour.

⁶Be not angry with thy neighbour for every wrong; and do nothing at all by insolent practices. ⁷Pride is hateful before the Lord and man: and unto both iniquity is wrong. ⁸Dominion is translated from one people to another, because of unrighteous dealings, insolence, and riches. ⁹How can he that is earth and ashes be arrogant? because while he liveth he casteth away his bowels. ¹⁰The physician mocketh a long disease; and he that is to day a king to morrow shall die. ¹¹For when a man dieth, he shall inherit creeping things, beasts, and worms. ¹²The beginning of pride is when one departeth from the Lord, and his heart is turned away from his Maker. ¹³For pride is the beginning of sin, and he that hath it shall pour out abomination: and therefore the Lord brought upon them strange calamities, and overthrew them utterly. ¹⁴The Lord hath cast down the thrones of proud princes, and set up the meek in their stead. ¹⁵The Lord hath plucked up the roots of the nations, and planted the lowly in their place. ¹⁶The Lord overthrew countries of the heathen, and destroyed them to the foundations of the earth. ¹⁷He took some of them away, and destroyed them, and hath made their memorial to cease from the earth. ¹⁸Pride was not made for man, nor furious anger for them that are born of a woman.

¹⁹What manner of seed is honourable? the seed of man. What manner of seed is dishonourable? they that fear the Lord. What manner of seed is dishonourable? the seed of man. What manner of seed is dishonourable? they that transgress the commandments. ²⁰Among brethren he that is chief is honourable; and they that fear the Lord are honourable in his eyes. (*no verse 21*) ²²They that be rich, noble, or poor, their glorying is the fear of the Lord. ²³It is not meet to dishonour the poor man that hath understanding; neither is it proper to glorify a sinful man. ²⁴The noble, and judge, and ruler shall be glorified; yet is there none of them greater than he that feareth the Lord. ²⁵Unto the servant that is wise shall they that are free do service: and he that hath knowledge will not grudge.

²⁶Be not overwise in doing thy business; and magnify not thyself in the time of thy trouble. ²⁷Better is he that laboreth, and aboundeth in all things, than he that boasteth himself, and wanteth bread. ²⁸My son, honour thy soul in meekness, and give it honour according to the worth thereof. ²⁹Who will justify him that sinneth against his own soul? and who will honour him that dishonoureth his own life? ³⁰The poor man is honoured for his knowledge, and the rich man is honoured for his riches. ³¹He that is honoured in poverty, how much more in riches? and he that is dishonourable in riches, how much more in poverty?

CHAPTER 11

The wisdom of him that is of low degree will lift up his head, and make him to sit among great men. ²Commend not a man for his beauty; neither abhor a man for his outward appearance. ³The bee is little among such as fly; but her fruit is the first among sweet things. ⁴Boast not of thy raiment, and exalt not thyself in the day of thine honour: for the works of the Lord are wonderful, and His works among men are hidden. ⁵Many kings have sat down upon the ground; and one that was never thought of hath worn the crown. ⁶Many mighty men have been greatly disgraced; and the honourable delivered into other men's hands. ⁷Blame not before thou hast examined the truth: understand first, and then rebuke. ⁸Answer not before thou hast heard: neither interrupt men in the midst of their talk. ⁹Strive not in a matter than concerneth thee not; and sit not in judgment with sinners.

¹⁰My son, let not thy business entail many matters: for if thou multiply them, thou shalt not be held innocent; and if thou follow after, thou shalt not overtake them, neither shalt thou escape by fleeing. ¹¹There is one that laboreth, and taketh pains, and maketh haste, and is so much the more behind. ¹²Again, there is another that is slow, and hath need of help, wanting strength, and full of poverty; yet the eyes of the Lord looked upon him for good, and set him up from his low estate, ¹³and lifted up his head from misery; and many marvelled at him. ¹⁴Good and bad, life and death, poverty and riches, come of the Lord. *(no verses 15-16)* ¹⁷The gift of the Lord remaineth with the godly, and His favour bringeth prosperity for ever. ¹⁸There is that waxeth rich by his wariness and pinching, and this is the portion of his reward: ¹⁹whereas he saith, I have found rest, and now will eat of my goods; and yet he knoweth not what time shall pass, and he shall leave those things to others, and die. ²⁰Be stedfast in thy covenant, and attend therein, and wax old in thy work. ²¹Marvel not at the works of sinners; but hope in the Lord, and abide in thy labour: for it is an easy thing in the sight of the Lord on the sudden to make a poor man rich. ²²The blessing of the Lord is in the reward of the godly, and suddenly He maketh His blessing to flourish. ²³Say not, What need I? and what good things shall be mine hereafter? ²⁴And say not, I have enough, and evil shall I suffer hereafter? ²⁵In the day of prosperity there is a forgetfulness of affliction: and in the day of affliction

there is no remembrance of prosperity. ²⁶For it is an easy thing unto the Lord in the day of death to reward a man according to his ways. ²⁷The affliction of an hour maketh a man forget luxuriousness: and in a man's end there shall be a discovery of his deeds. ²⁸Judge no man blessed before his death: and a man shall be known in his children.

²⁹Bring not every man into thine house: for the deceitful man hath many trains. ³⁰Like as a partridge taken *and kept* in a cage, so is the heart of the proud: and like as a spy, watcheth he for thy fall: ³¹for he lieth in wait, and turneth good into evil, and in things worthy of praise will he lay blame. ³²Of a spark of fire coals are multiplied: and a sinful man layeth wait for blood. ³³Take heed of a mischievous man, for he worketh wickedness: lest he bring upon thee a perpetual blame. ³⁴Receive a stranger into thine house, and he will turn thee about in confusion, and estrange thee of thine own.

CHAPTER 12

If thou do good, know to whom thou doest it; so shalt thou be thanked for thy good deeds. ²Do good to the godly man, and thou shalt find a recompence; and if not from him, yet from the Most High. ³There shall no good come to him that is always occupied in evil, nor to him that giveth not alms freely. ⁴Give to the godly man, but help not a sinner. ⁵Do well unto him that is lowly, but give not to the ungodly: hold back thy bread, and give it not unto him, lest he overmaster thee thereby: for thou shalt receive twice as much evil for all the good that thou shalt have done unto him. ⁶For the Most High also hateth sinners, and will render punishment upon the ungodly. ⁷Give unto the good, and help not the sinner.

⁸A friend shall not be punished in prosperity: and an enemy shall not be hidden in adversity. ⁹In the prosperity of a man, his enemies are grieved: but in his adversity, even a friend will separate himself. ¹⁰Never trust thine enemy: for like as copper rusteth, so doth his wickedness. ¹¹And though he humble himself, and go crouching, yet trust thy soul, and beware of him, and thou shalt be unto him like him that wipeth a looking glass, and thou shalt know that it hath not been altogether rusted. ¹²Set him not by thee, lest, when he hath overthrown thee, he stand up in thy place; neither let him sit at thy right hand, lest he seek thy seat, and thou at last remember my words, and be pricked therewith. ¹³Who will pity the charmer that is bitten with a serpent, or any such as come nigh wild beasts? ¹⁴So is he that goeth to a sinner, and is defiled with him in his sins. ¹⁵For awhile he will abide with thee, but if thou falter, he will not be steadfast. ¹⁶An enemy speaketh sweetly with his lips, but in his heart he imagineth how to throw thee into a pit: the enemy will weep with his eyes, but if he find opportunity, he will not be satisfied with blood. ¹⁷If adversity come upon thee, thou shalt find him there ahead of thee; and though he pretend to help thee, yet shall he undermine thy feet. ¹⁸He will shake his head, and clap his hands, and whisper much, and change his countenance.

CHAPTER 13

He that toucheth pitch shall be defiled *therewith*; and he that hath fellowship with a proud man shall be like unto him. ²Burden Lift not up a weight that is too heavy for thee; and have no fellowship with one that is mightier and richer than thyself. For how agree the kettle and the earthen pot together? for the one shall smite against the other, and shall be broken. ³The rich man hath done wrong, and yet is he angry withal: the poor is wronged, and he must entreat also. ⁴If thou be for his profit, he will use thee; but if thou have nothing, he will forsake thee. ⁵If thou have any thing, he will live with thee: yea, he will make thee bare, and will not be sorry for it. ⁶If he have need of thee, he will deceive thee, and smile upon thee, and put thee in hope; he will speak thee fair, and say, What wantest thou? ⁷And he will shame thee by his meats, until he have drawn thee dry twice or thrice, and at the last he will laugh thee to scorn: afterward, when he seeth thee, he will forsake thee, and shake his head at thee. ⁸Beware that thou be not deceived, and brought down in thy foolishness.

⁹If thou wilt be invited of a mighty man, withdraw thyself, and so much the more will he invite thee. ¹⁰Press not thou upon him, lest thou be put back; stand not far off, lest thou be forgotten. ¹¹Affect not to be made equal unto him in talk, and believe not his many words: for with much communication will he tempt thee, and smiling upon thee will examine thee: ¹²cruel is he that layeth not up thy words, and he will not spare to do thee hurt, and to put thee in prison. ¹³Observe, and take good heed, for thou walkest in peril of thine own downfall. (¹⁴When thou hearest these things in thy sleep, awake: in all thy life, love thou the Lord, and call upon Him for thy deliverance.)

¹⁵Every living creature loveth his like, and every man *loveth* his neighbour. ¹⁶All flesh consorteth according to kind, and a man will cleave to his like. ¹⁷What fellowship hath the wolf with the lamb? so the sinner with the godly man. ¹⁸What peace is there between the hyena and a dog? and what peace between the rich and poor? ¹⁹As the wild ass in the wilderness is the lion's prey: so are the poor the pastures of the rich. ²⁰An abomination to the proud is humility: even so an abomination to the rich is the poor man. ²¹A rich man beginning to fall down is held up of his friends: but a poor man being down is thrust also away by *his* friends. ²²When a rich man falleth, there are many to help him: he speaketh things not to be spoken, and yet they justify him. The poor man fell, and yet they rebuked him too; he spake wisely, and no place was given him. ²³When a rich man speaketh, every man holdeth his tongue, and what he saith, they extol it to the clouds: but if the poor man speak, they say, What fellow is this? and if he stumble, they will even overthrow him. ²⁴Riches are good where there is no sin, but poverty is evil in the mouth of the ungodly.

²⁵The heart of a man changeth his countenance, whether it be for good or evil. ²⁶A cheerful countenance is a token of a heart that is good; but the finding out of parables is a wearisome labour of mind.

CHAPTER 14

Blessed is the man that hath not slipped with his mouth, and is not pricked with the pain of his sin. ²Blessed is he whose soul hath not condemned him, and who is not fallen from his hope.

³Riches are not comely for a niggard: and what should an envious man do with money? ⁴He that gathereth by defrauding his own soul gathereth for others, and others shall live in daintiness with his goods. ⁵He that is evil to himself, to whom will he be good? he shall not take pleasure in his goods. ⁶There is none worse than he that envieth himself; and this is a recompence of his wickedness. ⁷And if he doeth good, he doeth it unwittingly; and at the last he discovereth his wickedness. ⁸The wicked man hath an envious eye; he turneth away his face, and despiseth souls. ⁹A covetous man's eye is not satisfied with his portion; and wicked injustice drieth up his soul. ¹⁰A wicked eye is envious over his bread, and it is lacking at his table.

¹¹My son, even as thou hast do good to thyself, and bring unto the Lord due offerings. ¹²Remember that death will not be long in coming, and that the covenant of Hades is not shewed unto thee. ¹³Do good unto thy friend before thou die, and according to thy ability stretch out *thy hand*, and give to him. ¹⁴Defraud not thyself of the good day, and let not any part of thy good desire overpass thee. ¹⁵Shalt thou not leave thy travails unto another? and thy labours to be divided by lot? ¹⁶Give, and take, and deceive thy soul; for there is no seeking of dainties in the grave. ¹⁷All flesh waxeth old as a garment: for the covenant from the beginning is, Thou shalt die the death. ¹⁸As of the green leaves on a thick tree, some it sheddeth, but others putteth it forth; so is the generation of flesh and blood; the one cometh to an end, and the other is born. ¹⁹Every work rotteth and consumeth away, and the worker thereof shall go withal.

²⁰Blessed is the man that doth meditate good things in wisdom, and that reasoneth by his understanding. ²¹He that considereth her ways in his heart shall also exercise himself in her secrets. ²²Go after her as one that traceth, and lie in wait in her ways. ²³He that prieth in at her windows shall also hearken at her doors. ²⁴He that doth lodge near her house shall also fasten a pin in her walls. ²⁵He shall pitch his tent according to her will, and shall lodge in a lodging where good things are. ²⁶He shall set his children in her shelter, and shall lodge under her branches. ²⁷By her he shall be sheltered from heat, and in her glory shall he dwell.

CHAPTER 15

He that feareth the Lord will do it; and he that holdeth fast unto the law shall hold fast to her; ²and as a mother shall she meet him, and receive him as a woman that is a virgin. ³With the bread of understanding shall she feed him, and give him the water of wisdom to drink. ⁴He shall be stayed upon her, and shall not be moved; and shall not lay him down, and shall not

be ashamed. ⁵She shall exalt him above his neighbours, and in the midst of the congregation shall she open his mouth. ⁶He shall find gladness and a crown of rejoicing, and inherit an everlasting name. ⁷But foolish men shall never lay hold upon her, and sinners shall not see her. ⁸For she is far from pride, and men that are liars shall not remember her.

⁹Praise is not seemly in the mouth of a sinner, for it was not sent *him* of the Lord. ¹⁰For praise shall be uttered in wisdom, and the Lord will prosper it. ¹¹Say not thou, By reason of the Lord have I fallen away: for He will not do that which He hateth. ¹²Say not thou, He hath caused me to err: for He hath no need of the sinful man. ¹³The Lord hateth every abomination; and they are not loved by them that hate Him. ¹⁴He Himself made man from the beginning, and left him in the hands of His counsel; ¹⁵if thou wilt, thou shalt keep the commandments, and keep faithfulness in His good pleasure. ¹⁶He hath set fire and water before thee: thou shalt stretch forth thy hand unto whether thou wilt. ¹⁷Before man is life and death; and whether him liketh shall be given him. ¹⁸For the wisdom of the Lord is great, and He is mighty in power, and beholdeth all things: ¹⁹and His eyes are upon them that fear Him, and He knoweth every work of man. ²⁰He hath commanded no man to be ungodly, neither hath He given any man licence to sin.

CHAPTER 16

Desire not a multitude of unprofitable children, neither be glad of ungodly sons. ²Though they multiply, rejoice not in them, except the fear of the Lord be with them. ³Trust not thou in their life, neither respect their multitude: for one that is just is better then a thousand; and better it is to die without children, than to have them that are ungodly. ⁴For by one that hath understanding shall the city be replenished: but the kindred of the wicked shall speedily become desolate. ⁵Many such things have mine eyes seen, and mine ear hath heard greater things than these. ⁶In a congregation of sinners shall a fire be kindled; and in a rebellious nation wrath is set on fire. ⁷He was not propitiated for the ancient giants, who were rebellious in their strength. ⁸Neither spared He the neighbours of Lot, whom He abhorred for their pride. ⁹He had no mercy upon a nation of destruction, they that were taken away by their sins: ¹⁰even so the six hundred thousand footmen, who were gathered together in the hardness of their hearts. ¹¹And if there be one stiffnecked among the people, it is marvel if he escape unpunished: for mercy and wrath are with Him; He is mighty to forgive, and to pour out wrath. ¹²According to His great mercy, so is His rebuke also: He will judge a man according to his works. ¹³A sinner shall not escape with his spoils: and the patience of the godly shall not be frustrate. ¹⁴He will make a way for every work of mercy: for every man shall find according to his works. (¹⁵The Lord hardened Pharaoh, that he should not know Him, that His works might be known out of the heaven. ¹⁶His mercy is manifest to all creation; and He hath separated His light from the darkness with an adamant.) ¹⁷Say not thou, I will hide myself

from the Lord: shall any remember me from on high? I shall not be remembered among a great many people: for what is my soul in an measureless creation? ¹⁸Behold, the heaven, and the heaven of heavens, the deep, and the earth, and all that therein is, shall be moved when He shall visit. ¹⁹At once the mountains and foundations of the earth are shaken with trembling, when He looketh upon them. ²⁰No heart can think upon these things: and who hath conceived His ways? ²¹And there is a tempest, which no man can see: for the most part of His works are hid. ²²Who can declare the works of His justice? or who can endure them? for His covenant is afar off. ²³He that wanteth understanding will think upon vain things: and a foolish man erring imagineth follies.

²⁴My son, hearken unto me, and learn knowledge, and to my words apply thy heart. ²⁵I will shew forth instruction in weight, and declare His knowledge exactly. ²⁶In the creation of the Lord are His works from the beginning: and from the time He made them, He disposed the parts thereof. ²⁷He garnished His works for ever, and the rule of them unto all generations: they neither hungered, nor were weary, nor did cease from their works. ²⁸None of them hindereth another, and they shall never disobey His word. ²⁹And after this the Lord looked upon the earth, and filled it with His good things. ³⁰With the soul of every living thing hath He covered the face thereof; and into it is their return again.

CHAPTER 17

The Lord created man of the earth, and turned him into it again. ²He gave them days in number, and short time, and power also over the things therein. ³He endued them with strength by themselves, and made them according to His image, ⁴and put the fear of man upon all flesh, and gave him dominion over beasts and fowls. (⁵They received the use of the five operations of the Lord, and in the sixth place He imparted them understanding, and in the seventh speech, an interpreter of the cogitations thereof.) ⁶Counsel, and a tongue, and eyes, and ears, and a heart, gave He them to understand. ⁷Withal He filled them with the knowledge of understanding, and shewed them good and evil. ⁸He set His eye upon their hearts, that he might shew them the majesty of His works; ⁹and they shall praise His holy name, ¹⁰that they may tell of His marvellous works. ¹¹He set knowledge before them, and gave them a law of life. ¹²He made an everlasting covenant with them, and shewed them His judgments. ¹³Their eyes saw the majesty of His glory, and their ears heard His glorious voice. ¹⁴And He said unto them, Beware of all unrighteousness; and He gave every man commandment concerning his neighbour. ¹⁵Their ways are ever before Him, and shall not be hid from His eyes. (*no verse 16*) ¹⁷He set a ruler for every nation; but Israel is the Lord's portion. (*no verse 18*) ¹⁹All their works are as the sun before Him, and His eyes are continually upon their ways. ²⁰None of their unrighteous deeds were hid from Him, but all their sins are before the Lord. (*no verse 21*) ²²The alms

of a man is as a signet with Him, and He will keep the good deeds of a man as the apple of His eye. ²³After these things He will rise up and reward them, and render their recompence upon their heads. ²⁴But unto them that repented, He granted them return, and comforted those that abandoned hope. ²⁵Return unto the Lord, and forsake thy sins, make thy prayer before His face, and offend less. ²⁶Turn again to the Most High, and turn away from injustice: and hate thou abomination vehemently. ²⁷Who shall praise the Most High in Hades, instead of them which live and give thanks? ²⁸Thanksgiving perisheth from the dead, as from one that is not: the living and sound in heart shall praise the Lord. ²⁹How great is the lovingkindness of the Lord our God, and His compassion unto such as turn unto Him in holiness! ³⁰For all things cannot be in men, because the son of man is not immortal. ³¹What is brighter than the sun? yet the light thereof faileth: and flesh and blood will imagine evil. ³²He vieweth the power of the height of heaven; and all men are but earth and ashes.

CHAPTER 18

He that liveth for ever created all things in general: ²the Lord only shall be justified. (And there is none other but He, ³Who governeth the world with the palm of His hand, and all things obey His will: for He is King of all, by His power dividing holy things among them from profane.) ⁴To none hath He given power to declare His works; and who shall find out His majestic acts? ⁵Who shall number the strength of His majesty? and who shall also tell out His mercies? ⁶There may nothing be taken from them, neither may any thing be put unto them, neither can the wondrous things of the Lord be searched out. ⁷When a man hath done, then he beginneth; and when he leaveth off, then he shall be doubtful. ⁸What is man, and whereto serveth he; what is his good, and what is his evil? ⁹The number of a man's days at the most is an hundred years. ¹⁰As a drop of water unto the sea, and a gravelstone of the sand; so are a few years to the days of eternity. ¹¹Therefore was God patient with them, and poured forth His mercy upon them. ¹²He saw and perceived their end to be evil; therefore he multiplied His propitiation. ¹³The mercy of man is toward his neighbour; but the mercy of the Lord is upon all flesh: He reproveth, and nurtureth, and teacheth, and bringeth again, as a shepherd his flock. ¹⁴He hath mercy on them that receive discipline, and that diligently seek after His judgments.

¹⁵My son, suffer not reproach among thy good deeds, neither use uncomfortable words with every giving. ¹⁶Shall not the dew assuage the heat? so is a word better than a gift. ¹⁷Lo, is not a word better than a good gift? but both are with a man that been favoured. ¹⁸A fool will upbraid with churlishness, and the giving of the envious consumeth the eyes. ¹⁹Learn before thou speak, and use physic or ever thou be sick. ³⁰Before judgment examine thyself, and in the day of visitation thou shalt find mercy. ²¹Humble thyself before thou be sick, and in the time of sin shew repentance. ²²Be not

hindered from pay thy vow in due time, and defer not until death to be justified. ²³Before thou makest a vow, prepare thyself; and be not as one that tempteth the Lord. ²⁴Be mindful of wrath in the days of death, and of the time of vengeance, when He shall turn away His face. ²⁵In time of plenteousness, remember the time of hunger: and in days when thou art rich, think upon poverty and need. ²⁶From the morning until the evening the opportunity changeth, and all things are swift before the Lord. ²⁷A wise man will take heed in every thing, and in the day of sinning he will beware of error. ²⁸Every man of understanding knoweth wisdom, and will give praise unto him that findeth her. ²⁹They that had understanding in sayings became also wise themselves, and poured forth apt parables.

SELF-CONTROL OF SPIRIT. - ³⁰Go not after thy lusts, but refrain thyself from thine appetites. ³¹If thou furnish thy soul with consent for desire, she will make thee a laughingstock of thine enemies. ³²Take not pleasure in much good cheer, neither be made needy with the touch thereof. ³³Be not made a beggar by banqueting upon borrowing, when thou hast nothing in thy purse.

CHAPTER 19

A labouring man that is given to drunkenness shall not be rich: and he that contemneth small things shall fall by little and little. ²Wine and women will make men of understanding to fall away: and he that cleaveth to harlots will become indulgent. ³Moths and worms shall have him to heritage, and a bold man shall be taken away.

⁴He that is hasty to give credit is lightminded; and he that sinneth shall offend against his own soul. ⁵Whoso taketh pleasure in wickedness shall be condemned: ⁶but he that hateth babbling hath less of heart. ⁷Rehearse not a word, and nothing shall be lacking unto thee. ⁸With friend or foe, talk not of it; and except it be a sin in thee, reveal it not. ⁹For He heard and observed thee, and when time cometh He will hate thee. ¹⁰Hast thou heard a word? let it die with thee; be bold, it will not burst thee. ¹¹A fool travaileth with a word, as a woman in labour of a child. ¹²As an arrow that sticketh in the flesh of a thigh, so is a word within a fool's belly.

¹³Question a friend; it may be he hath not done it: and if he have done it, peradventure he will do it no more. ¹⁴Question thy friend; it may be he hath not said it: and if he have, peradventure he will not speak again. ¹⁵Question a friend; for many times it is a slander, and believe not every tale. ¹⁶There is one that slippeth, but not from his heart: and who is he that hath not offended with his tongue? ¹⁷Question thy neighbour before thou threaten him; and give place to the law of the Most High. (Knowledge of truth. ¹⁸The fear of the Lord is the first step to acquisition, and wisdom obtaineth His love. ¹⁹The knowledge of the commandments of the Lord is the doctrine of life: and they that do things that please Him shall receive the fruit of the tree of immortality.)

²⁰The fear of the Lord is all wisdom; and in all wisdom is the performance of the law, (and the knowledge of His omnipotency. ²¹If a servant say to his master, I will not do as it pleaseth thee; though afterward he do it, he angereth him that nourisheth him.) ²²The knowledge of wickedness is not wisdom, neither at any time in the counsel of sinners prudence. ²³There is a subtilty, and the same an abomination; and there is a fool wanting in wisdom. ²⁴He that hath small understanding, and feareth, is better than one that is great in wisdom, and transgresseth the law. ²⁵There is an exquisite subtilty, and the same is unjust; and there is one that turneth aside to make judgment appear; and he that justifieth is wise in judgment. ²⁶There is a wicked man that boweth down sadly; but inwardly he is full of deceit, ²⁷casting down his countenance, and making as if he heard not: where none do observe, he will outrun thee. ²⁸And if for want of power he be hindered from sinning, yet if he findeth opportunity he will do evil. ²⁹A man may be known by his look, and one that hath understanding by his countenance, when thou meetest him. ³⁰A man's attire, and excessive laughter, and gait, shew what he is.

CHAPTER 20

There is a reproof that is not timely: and there is he that holdeth his tongue, and is wise. ²How much better it is to reprove, than to be angry: and he that confesseth his fault shall be preserved from hurt. ⁴As is the lust of an eunuch to deflower a virgin; so is he that executeth judgment with violence. ⁵There is one that keepeth silence, and is found wise: and there is another that by much babbling becometh hateful. ⁶Some man holdeth his tongue, because he hath not to answer: and some keepeth silence, knowing his time. ⁷A wise man will hold his tongue till a proper time: but a babbler and a fool will regard no time. ⁸He that useth many words shall be abhorred; and he that taketh to himself authority therein shall be hated. ⁹There is a man that hath good success in evil things; and there is a gain that turneth to loss. ¹⁰There is a gift that shall not profit thee; and there is a gift whose recompence is double. ¹¹There is an abasement because of glory; and there is that lifteth up his head from a low estate. ¹²There is that buyeth much for a little, and repayeth it sevenfold. ¹³A wise man by his words maketh himself beloved: but the graces of fools shall be poured out. ¹⁴The gift of a fool shall do thee no good; for his eyes are many instead of one. ¹⁵He will give little, and upbraid much; he will open his mouth like a crier; today he will lend, and tomorrow will he ask it again: such an one is to be hated. ¹⁶The fool saith, I have no friend, and I have no thanks for my good deeds, and they that eat my bread speak evil of me. ¹⁷How oft, and of how many, shall laugh him to scorn! ¹⁸To slip upon a pavement is better than to slip with the tongue: so the fall of the wicked shall come speedily. ¹⁹A man without grace is as an unseasonable tale; it will always be in the mouth of the unwise. ²⁰A parable shall be rejected when it cometh out of a fool's mouth; for he will not speak it in due season.

²¹There is that is hindered from sinning through want: and when he taketh rest, he shall not be troubled. ²²There is that destroyeth his own soul through bashfulness, and by the foolish shall overthrow himself. ²³There is that for bashfulness promiseth to his friend, and maketh him his enemy for nothing. ²⁴A lie is a foul blot in a man, yet it is continually in the mouth of the untaught. ²⁵A thief is better than a man that is accustomed to lie: but they both shall have destruction to heritage. ²⁶The disposition of a liar is dishonourable, and his shame is ever with him.

ILLUSTRATIVE SAYINGS ²⁷A wise man shall promote himself to honour with his words: and he that hath understanding will please great men. ²⁸He that tilleth his land shall increase his heap: and he that pleaseth great men shall atone for iniquity. ²⁹Presents and gifts blind the eyes of the wise, and as a muzzle on a mouth they turn away reproofs. ³⁰Wisdom that is hid, and treasure that is hoarded up, what profit is in them both? ³¹Better is he that hideth his folly than a man that hideth his wisdom.

CHAPTER 21

My son, hast thou sinned? add no more to them, but ask pardon for thy former sins. ²Flee from sin, as from the face of a serpent: for if thou comest too near it, it will bite thee: the teeth thereof are as the teeth of a lion, destroying the souls of men. ³All iniquity is as a two edged sword, for there is no healing for the wound thereof. ⁴Terror and insolence will waste riches: thus the house of proud men shall be uprooted. ⁵A prayer out of a poor man's mouth reacheth to the ears of *God*, and His judgment cometh speedily. ⁶He that hateth reproof is in the steps of sinners: but he that feareth the Lord will turn with his heart. ⁷An eloquent man is known from afar; but a man of understanding knoweth when he slippeth. ⁸He that buildeth his house with other men's money is like one that gathereth himself stones for the tomb of his burial. ⁹The congregation of the wicked is like tow wrapped together: and the end of them is a flame of fire. ¹⁰The way of sinners is made plain with stones, but at the end thereof it the pit of Hades.

¹¹He that keepeth the law getteth mastery of his thoughts: and the consummation of the fear of the Lord is wisdom. ¹²He that is not wise will not be taught: but there is a wisdom that multiplieth bitterness. ¹³The knowledge of a wise man shall abound like a flood: and his counsel is like a fountain of life. ¹⁴The inner parts of a fool are like a broken vessel, and he will hold no knowledge as long as he liveth. ¹⁵If a skilful man hear a wise word, he will commend it, and add unto it: but when one that liveth in luxury heareth it, it displeaseth him, and he casteth it behind his back. ¹⁶The talking of a fool is like a burden in the way: but grace shall be found in the lips of the wise. ¹⁷The mouth of the wise man will be sought after in the congregation, and they shall ponder his words in their heart. ¹⁸As is a house that is destroyed, so is wisdom to a fool: and the knowledge of the unwise is words without sense. ¹⁹Learning unto fools is as fetters on the feet, and like manacles on his

right hand. ²⁰A fool lifteth up his voice with laughter; but a wise man doth scarce smile a little. ²¹Learning is unto a wise man as an ornament of gold, and like a bracelet upon his right arm. ²²A foolish man's foot is soon in an house: but a man of experience will refrain in front thereof. ²³A fool will peep in at the door into the house: but he that is well nurtured will stand without. ²⁴It is lack of nurture in a man to hearken at the door: but a wise man will be grieved with the disgrace. ²⁵The lips of talkers will be telling tales with such things: but the words of such as have understanding are weighed in the balance. ²⁶The heart of fools is in their mouth: but the mouth of the wise is in their heart. ²⁷When the ungodly curseth Satan, he curseth his own soul. ²⁸A whisperer defileth his own soul, and is hated in his own neighbourhood.

CHAPTER 22

A slothful man is compared to a filthy stone, and every one will hiss him out of his dishonour. ²A slothful man is compared to the filth of a dunghill: every man that taketh it up will shake it off his hand. ³An evil nurtured son is the dishonour of his father that begat him: and a foolish daughter is born to his loss. ⁴A wise daughter shall bring an inheritance to her husband: but she that is put to shame is her father's heaviness. ⁵She that is bold dishonoureth both her father and her husband, and they both shall despise her.

⁶A tale out of season is as musick in mourning: but stripes and correction of wisdom are never out of time. ⁷Whoso teacheth a fool is as one that glueth a potsherd together, and as he that waketh one from a sound sleep. ⁸He that telleth a tale to a fool speaketh to one in a slumber: when he hath told his tale, he will say, What is the matter? *(no verses ⁹ and ¹⁰)* ¹¹Weep for the dead, for he hath lost the light: and weep for the fool, for he hath left behind understanding: make glad weeping for the dead, for he is at rest: but the life of a fool is worse than death. ¹²Seven days is mourning for him that is dead; but for a fool and an ungodly man, all the days of his life. ¹³Talk not much with a fool, and go not to him that hath no understanding: beware of him, lest thou have trouble, and thou shalt never be defiled with his shaking off: depart from him, and thou shalt find rest, and never be disquieted with his madness. ¹⁴What is heavier than lead? and what is the name thereof, but a fool? ¹⁵Sand, and salt, and a mass of iron, are easier to bear, than a man without understanding. ¹⁶As timber girt and bound together in a building cannot be loosed with shaking: so the heart that is stablished by advised counsel shall fear at no time. ¹⁷A heart settled upon a thought of understanding is as a fair plaistering on the wall of a gallery. ¹⁸Pales set on an high place will never stand against the wind: so a fearful heart in the imagination of a fool cannot stand against any fear.

¹⁹He that pricketh the eye will make tears to fall: and he that pricketh the heart maketh it to shew her feeling. ²⁰Whoso casteth stone at the birds frayeth them away: and he that upbraideth his friend breaketh friendship.

²¹Though thou drewest a sword at thy friend, yet despair not: for there may again be friendship. ²²If thou hast opened the mouth against thy friend, fear not; for there may be a reconciliation: except for upbraiding, or pride, or disclosing of secrets, or a treacherous wound: for these things every friend will depart. ²³Gain thy neighbour's trust in his poverty, that thou mayest be filled in his prosperity: abide stedfast unto him in the time of his trouble, that thou mayest be heir with him in his heritage. ²⁴As the vapour and smoke of a furnace goeth before the fire; so reviling before blood. ²⁵I will not be ashamed to shelter a friend; neither will I hide myself from him. ²⁶And if any evil happen unto me by him, every one that heareth of it will beware of him. ²⁷Who shall set a watch before my mouth, and a seal of wisdom upon my lips, that I fall not suddenly by them, and that my tongue destroy me not?

CHAPTER 23

O Lord, Father and Master of my life, leave me not to their counsels, and let me not fall by them. ²Who will set scourges over my thoughts, and the discipline of wisdom over mine heart? that they spare me not for mine ignorances, and it pass not by my sins: ³lest mine ignorances be multiplied, and my sins abound, and I fall before mine adversaries, and mine enemy rejoice over me, whose hope is far from thy mercy. ⁴O Lord, Father and God of my life, give me not a proud look, ⁵and turn away concupiscence from me. ⁶Let not the greediness of the belly nor lust of the flesh take hold of me; and give me not over into a shameless soul.

DISCIPLINE OF THE MOUTH ⁷Hear, O ye children, the discipline of the mouth: he that keepeth it shall never be taken. ⁸The sinner shall be overtaken with his lips, and both the evil speaker and the proud shall stumble thereby. ⁹Accustom not thy mouth to swearing; neither use thyself to the naming of the Holy One. ¹⁰For as a servant that is continually beaten shall not be without a bruise: so he that sweareth and nameth the Name continually shall not be cleansed of his sins. ¹¹A man that useth much swearing shall be filled with transgression, and the plague shall never depart from his house: if he shall offend, his sin shall be upon him: and if he acknowledge not his sin, he maketh a double offence: and if he swear in vain, he shall not be justified, but his house shall be full of calamities. ¹²There is a manner of speaking that is compared with death: let not be found in the heritage of Jacob; for all such things shall be far from the godly, and they shall not wallow in their sins. ¹³Let not thy mouth be used to lewd words, for therein is the word of sin. ¹⁴Remember thy father and thy mother, when thou sittest among great men, lest thou be forgetful before them, and so thou by thy custom become a fool, and wish that thou hadst not been born, and curse the day of thy nativity. ¹⁵The man that is accustomed to opprobrious words will never be instructed all the days of his life.

¹⁶Two sorts of men multiply sin, and the third will bring wrath: a hot mind is as a burning fire, it will never be quenched until it be consumed: a

fornicator in the body of his flesh will never cease till the fire burneth out. ¹⁷All bread is sweet to a whoremonger; he will not wax weary till he die. ¹⁸A man that transgresseth against his marriage bed, saying thus in his heart, Who seeth me? I am compassed about with darkness, the walls cover me, and no body seeth me; what need I to fear? the Most High will not remember my sins: ¹⁹such a man only feareth the eyes of men, and knoweth not that the eyes of the Lord are ten thousand times brighter than the sun, beholding all the ways of men, and considering the most secret parts. ²⁰He knew all things ere ever they were created; so also after they were perfected He looked upon them all. ²¹This man shall be punished in the streets of the city, and where he suspecteth not he shall be taken. ²²Thus shall it go also with the wife that leaveth her husband, and bringeth in an heir by another. ²³For first, she hath disobeyed the law of the Most High; and secondly, she hath trespassed against her own husband; and thirdly, she hath played the whore in adultery, and brought children by another man. ²⁴She shall be brought out into the congregation, and inquisition shall be made of her children. ²⁵Her children shall not take root, and her branches shall bring forth no fruit. ²⁶She shall leave her memory for a curse, and her reproach shall not blotted out. ²⁷And they that remain shall know that there is nothing better than fear of the Lord, and nothing is sweeter than to take heed unto the commandments of the Lord.

CHAPTER 24

PRAISE OF WISDOM ¹Wisdom shall praise her soul, and shall glory in the midst of her people. ²In the congregation of the Most High shall she open her mouth, and make her boast before His power. ³I came out of the mouth of the Most High, and covered the earth as a mist. ⁴I dwelt in high places, and my throne is in a cloudy pillar. ⁵I alone compassed the circuit of heaven, and walked in the bottom of the deep. ⁶In the waves of the sea, and in every people and nation have I got a possession. ⁷With all these I sought rest: and in whose inheritance shall I abide? ⁸So the Creator of all things gave me a commandment, and He that made me caused my tabernacle to rest, and said, Let thy dwelling be in Jacob, and thine inheritance in Israel. ⁹He created me from the beginning before the world, and I shall never fail. ¹⁰In the holy tabernacle I served before Him; and so was I established in Zion. ¹¹Likewise in the beloved city He gave me rest, and in Jerusalem was my power. ¹²And I took root in an honourable people, even in the portion of the Lord's inheritance. ¹³I was exalted like a cedar in Lebanon, and as a cypress tree upon the water of Hermon. ¹⁴I was exalted like a palm tree in Engeddi, and as a rose plant in Jericho, and i was exalted as a fair olive tree in a plain, and grew up as a plane tree. ¹⁵I gave a sweet smell like cinnamon and aspalathus, and I yielded a pleasant odour like the best myrrh, as galbanum, and onyx, and sweet storax, and as the fume of frankincense in the tabernacle. ¹⁶As the turpentine tree I stretched out my branches, and my

branches are the branches of glory and grace. ¹⁷As the vine brought I forth favour, and my flowers are the fruit of honour and riches. (¹⁸I am the mother of fair love, and fear, and knowledge, and holy hope: I therefore, being eternal, am given to all my children which are named of Him.) ¹⁹Come unto me, all ye that be desirous of me, and fill yourselves with my fruits. ²⁰For my memorial is sweeter than honey, and mine inheritance than the honeycomb. ²¹They that eat me shall yet be hungry, and they that drink me shall yet be thirsty. ²²He that obeyeth me shall never be ashamed, and they that work by me shall not sin. ²³All these things are the book of the covenant of the Most High God, even the law which Moses commanded for an heritage unto the congregations of Jacob. (²⁴Faint not to be strong in the Lord; that he may confirm you, cleave unto Him: for the Lord Almighty is God alone, and beside Him there is no other Saviour.) ²⁵He filleth all things with his wisdom, as Pishon and as Tigris in the time of the new fruits. ²⁶He maketh the understanding to abound like Euphrates, and as Jordan in the time of harvest. ²⁷He maketh the understanding to appear as the light, and as Gihon in the time of vintage. ²⁸As the first man knew her not perfectly: even so the last found her not out. ²⁹For her thoughts are more deep than the sea, and her counsels than the great abyss. ³⁰I also came out as a brook from a river, and as a conduit into a garden. ³¹I said, I will water my garden, and will water abundantly my garden bed: and, lo, my brook became a river, and my river became a sea. ³²I will yet make doctrine to shine as the morning, and will make it to shine afar off. ³³I will yet pour out doctrine as prophecy, and leave it for everlasting generations. ³⁴Behold that I have not laboured for myself only, but for all them that seek wisdom.

CHAPTER 25

In three things I was beautified, and they are beautiful before the Lord and men: the unity of brethren, the love of neighbours, a man and wife that agree together. ²Three sorts of men my soul hateth, and I am greatly offended at their life: a poor man that is proud, a rich man that is a liar, and an old adulterer that lacketh understanding. ³If thou hast gathered nothing in thy youth, how canst thou find any thing in thine age? ⁴O how comely a thing is judgment for gray hairs, and for ancient men to know counsel! ⁵O how comely is the wisdom of old men, and understanding and counsel to men of honour! ⁶Much experience is the crown of old men, and the fear of God is their boast. ⁷There be nine suppositions which I have judged in mine heart to be happy, and the tenth I will utter with my tongue: A man that hath joy of his children; and he that liveth to see the fall of his enemy. ⁸Happy is he that dwelleth with a wife of understanding, and that hath not slipped with his tongue, and that hath not served a man more unworthy than himself. ⁹Happy is he that hath found prudence, and he that speaketh in the ears of them that will hear: ¹⁰O how great is he that findeth wisdom! yet there is none above him that feareth the Lord. ¹¹But the fear of the Lord surpasseth all things: he

that holdeth it, whereto shall he be likened? (¹²The fear of the Lord is the beginning of his love: and faith is the beginning of cleaving unto Him.)

¹³Any plague, but the plague of the heart: and any wickedness, but the wickedness of a woman: ¹⁴and any affliction, but the affliction from them that hate me: and any revenge, but the revenge of enemies. ¹⁵There is no head above the head of a serpent; and there is no wrath above the wrath of an enemy. ¹⁶I had rather dwell with a lion and a dragon, than to keep house with a wicked woman. ¹⁷The wickedness of a woman changeth her face, and darkeneth her countenance like that of a bear. ¹⁸Her husband shall sit among his neighbours; and when he heareth it shall sigh bitterly. ¹⁹All wickedness is but little to the wickedness of a woman; let the portion of a sinner fall upon her. ²⁰As the climbing up a sandy way is to the feet of the aged, so is a wife full of words to a quiet man. ²¹Stumble not at the beauty of a woman, and desire not her not. ²²A woman, if she maintain her husband, is full of anger, shamelessness, and much disgrace. ²³A wicked woman is abatement of the courage, an heavy countenance and a wounded heart: of a woman that will not comfort her husband are weak hands and feeble knees. ²⁴Of the woman came the beginning of sin, and through her we all die. ²⁵Give not the water passage; neither boldness unto a wicked woman. ²⁶If she walk not according to thy will, cut her off from thy flesh.

CHAPTER 26

Blessed is the man that hath a good wife, for the number of his days shall be double. ²A woman of courage rejoiceth her husband, and he shall fulfil the years of his life in peace. ³A good wife is a good portion, and she will be given in the portion of them that fear the Lord. ⁴When rich or poor, a good heart, at all times a cheerful countenance. ⁵There be three things that mine heart feareth; and for the fourth I was sore afraid: the slander of a city, the gathering together of an unruly multitude, and a false accusation: all these are worse than death. ***⁶But a grief of heart and sorrow is a woman that is jealous over another woman, and a scourge of the tongue which communicateth with all. ⁷An evil wife is a yoke shaken to and from: he that hath hold of her is as though he held a scorpion. ⁸A drunken woman is a great anger, and she will not cover her own shame. ⁹The whoredom of a woman may be known in her haughty looks and eyelids. ¹⁰Over thy daughter that is wanton, keep strait watch, lest she find overmuch liberty, and use it. ¹¹Watch over an impudent eye: and marvel not if she trespass against thee. ¹²She will open her mouth, as a thirsty traveller, and drink of every water near her: by every tent peg will she sit down, and open her quiver to every arrow. ¹³The grace of a wife will delight her husband, and her skill will fatten his bones. ¹⁴A silent woman is a gift of the Lord; and there is nothing so much worth as a soul that is disciplined. ¹⁵A modest woman is grace upon grace, and there is no scale that can weigh a continent soul. ¹⁶As the sun when it ariseth in the Lord's heaven; so is the beauty of a wife in the ordering

of her house. ¹⁷As the clear light is upon the holy lampstand: so is the beauty of the face in ripe age. ¹⁸As the golden pillars are upon the sockets of silver; so are the fair feet with steady feet. (¹⁹My son, keep the flower of thine age sound; and give not thy strength to strangers. ²⁰When thou hast gotten a fruitful possession through all the field, sow it with thine own seed, trusting in the goodness of thy stock. ²¹So thy race which thou leavest shall be magnified, having the confidence of their good descent. ²²An harlot shall be accounted as spittle; but a married woman shall be a tower of death to them that use her. ²³A wicked woman shall be given as a portion to a wicked man: but a godly woman is given to him that feareth the Lord. ²⁴A dishonest woman contemneth shame: but an honest daughter will reverence her husband. ²⁵A shameless woman shall be counted as a dog; but she that is shamefaced will fear the Lord. ²⁶A woman that honoureth her husband shall be judged wise of all; but she that dishonoureth him in her pride shall be counted ungodly of all. Happy is the husband of a good woman, for the number of his years shall be double. ²⁷A loud crying woman and a scold shall observe a rout like a trumpet of war.) ²⁸There be two things whereby my heart is grieved; and by a third anger came upon me: a man of war in want because of poverty; and men of understanding that suffer contempt; and one that returneth from righteousness to sin; the Lord prepareth such an one for the sword.

²⁹A merchant shall hardly keep himself from doing wrong; and an huckster shall not be freed from sin.

CHAPTER 27

Many have sinned for a small profit; and he that seeketh for abundance will turn his eyes away. ²As a nail shall be driven between the joinings of the stones; so shall sin stick close between buying and selling. ³Unless a man hold himself diligently in the fear of the Lord, his house shall soon be overthrown.

⁴As when one sifteth with a sieve, the refuse remaineth; so the filth of man is in his talk. ⁵The furnace proveth the potter's vessels; so the trial of man is in his reasoning. ⁶As fruit declareth how the tree hath been dressed; so is the utterance of a conceit in the heart of man. ⁷Praise no man before thou hearest him reason; for this is the trial of men. ⁸If thou followest righteousness, thou shalt take hold, and put her on, as a glorious long robe. ⁹The birds will resort unto their like; so will truth return unto them that practise in her. ¹⁰As the lion lieth in wait for the prey; so sin for them that work iniquity. ¹¹The discourse of a godly man is always with wisdom; but a fool changeth as the moon. ¹²If thou be among the indiscreet, observe the time; but be continually among men of understanding. ¹³The discourse of fools is irksome, and their sport is the wantonness of sin. ¹⁴The talk of him that sweareth much maketh the hair stand upright; and their brawls make one stop his ears. ¹⁵The strife of the proud is bloodletting, and their revilings

are grievous to the ear. ¹⁶Whoso discovereth secrets hath lost his credit; and shall never find friend to his mind. ¹⁷Love thy friend, and be faithful to him: but if thou bewrayest his secrets, follow no more after him. ¹⁸For as a man hath destroyed his enemy; so hast thou lost the love of thy neighbour. ¹⁹As one that letteth a bird go out of his hand, so hast thou let thy neighbour go, and shalt not get him again. ²⁰Follow not after him, for he is withdrawn far off; he is as a roe escaped out of the snare. ²¹As for a wound, it may be bound up; and after reviling there may be reconcilment: but he that bewrayeth secrets is without hope. ²²He that winketh with the eyes worketh evil: and he that knoweth him will depart from him. ²³When thou art present, his mouthe will be sweet, and he will admire thy words: but at the last he will writhe his mouth, and slander thy sayings. ²⁴I have hated many things, but nothing like him; and the Lord will hate him. ²⁵Whoso casteth a stone on high casteth it on his own head; and a deceitful stroke shall make wounds. ²⁶Who diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that setteth a trap shall be taken therein. ²⁷He that worketh mischief, it shall be rolled back upon him, and he shall never know whence it is come to him. ²⁸Mockery and reproach are from the proud; but vengeance, as a lion, shall wait for him. ²⁹They that rejoice at the fall of the righteous shall be taken in the snare; and anguish shall consume them before they die.

³⁰Malice and wrath, even these are abominations; and the sinful man shall have them both.

CHAPTER 28

He that revengeth shall find vengeance from the Lord, and He will surely keep his sins (in remembrance). ²Forgive thy neighbour a wrong, so shall thy sins also be pardoned when thou prayest. ³One man beareth hatred against another, and shall he seek healing from the Lord? ⁴Doth he not shew mercy to a man, which is like himself: and doth he not petition for his own sins? ⁵If he that is but flesh keep his anger continually, who will intreat atonement for his sins? ⁶Remember the end of thy life, and cease from enmity; (remember) corruption and death, and abide in the commandments. ⁷Remember the commandments, and bear no wrath against thy neighbour: (remember) the covenant of the Highest, and overlook an error. ⁸Abstain from strife, and thou shalt diminish thy sins: for a furious man will kindle strife. ⁹A sinful man will disquiet friends, and cast slander among them that be at peace. ¹⁰As the wood of the fire is, so it burneth: and according to the obstinacy of strife, it will increase; and according to his riches he will increase his anger; and the stronger they are which contend, the more they will be inflamed. ¹¹An hasty contention kindleth afire: and an hasty fighting sheddeth blood. ¹²If thou blow the spark, it shall burn: if thou spit upon it, it shall be quenched: and both of these come out of thy mouth.

¹³Curse the whisperer and double tongued: for such have destroyed many that were at peace. ¹⁴A backbiting tongue hath disquieted many, and

driven them from nation to nation: strong cities hath it pulled down, and overthrown the houses of great men. ¹⁵A backbiting tongue hath cast out courageous women, and deprived them of their labours. ¹⁶Whoso hearkeneth unto it shall never find rest, and never dwell quietly. ¹⁷The stroke of a whip maketh marks in the flesh: but the stroke of the tongue breaketh the bones. ¹⁸Many have fallen by the edge of the sword: but no so many as have fallen by the tongue. ¹⁹Well is he that is defended from it, and hath not passed through the venom thereof, nor hath been bound in her bands. ²⁰For the yoke thereof is a yoke of iron, and the bands thereof are made of brass. ²¹The death thereof is an evil death, and Hades is better than it. ²²It shall not have rule over the ungodly, neither shall they be burned with the flame thereof. ²³Such as forsake the Lord shall fall into it; and it shall burn in them, and not be quenched; it shall be sent upon as a lion, and devour them as a leopard. ²⁴Look that thou hedge thy possessions about with thorns, and bind up thy silver and gold, ²⁵and make for thy words balances and scales, and make a door and bar for thy mouth. ²⁶Beware thou slide not by it, lest thou fall before him that lieth in wait.

CHAPTER 29

He that is merciful will lend unto his neighbour; and he that strengtheneth with his hand keepeth the commandments. ²Lend to thy neighbour in time of his need, and pay thou thy neighbour again in due season. ³Keep thy word, and deal faithfully with him, and thou shalt always find the thing that is necessary for thee. ⁴Many, when a thing was lent them, reckoned it to be found, and put them to trouble that helped them. ⁵Till he hath received, he will kiss a man's hand; and for his neighbour's money he will speak submissively: but, when he should repay, he will prolong the time, and return words of grief, and complain of the time. ⁶If he prevail, he shall hardly receive the half, and he will count as if he had found it: if not, he hath deprived him of his money, and he hath gotten him an enemy without cause: he payeth him with cursings and railings; and for honour he will pay him disgrace. ⁷Many therefore have refused to lend for other men's ill dealing, fearing to be defrauded. ⁸Yet have thou patience with a man in poor estate, and delay not to shew him mercy. ⁹Help the poor for the commandment's sake, and make him not await thy charity. ¹⁰Lose thy money for thy brother and thy friend, and let it not rust under a stone unto destruction. ¹¹Lay up thy treasure according to the commandments of the Most High, and it shall bring thee more profit than gold. ¹²Shut up alms in thy storehouses: and it shall deliver thee from all affliction. ¹³It shall fight for thee against thine enemies better than a mighty shield and strong spear. ¹⁴An honest man will give surety for his neighbour: but he that is impudent will forsake him.

¹⁵Forget not the kindness of thy surety, for he hath given his life for thee. ¹⁶A sinner will overthrow the good estate of his surety: ¹⁷and he that is of an unthankful mind will forsake him that delivered him. ¹⁸Suretyship hath

undone many that prospered, and shaken them as a wave of the sea: mighty men hath it driven from their houses, so that they wandered among strange nations. ¹⁹A sinner shall fall into suretyship: and he that undertaketh and as he followeth business for gain shall fall into suits. ²⁰Help thy neighbour according to thy power, and beware that thou thyself fall not. ²¹The chief thing for life is water, and bread, and clothing, and a house to cover shame. ²²Better is the life of a poor man under a shelter of rafters, than delicate fare in another man's cottage. ²³Be it little or much, hold thee contented, and thou shalt not hear reproach that thou art a stranger. ²⁴For it is a miserable life to go from house to house: for where thou art a stranger, thou darest not open thy mouth. ²⁵Thou shalt entertain, and give drink, and have no thanks: moreover thou shalt hear bitter words: ²⁶Come, thou stranger, and furnish a table, and feed me of that meat that thou hast ready. ²⁷Give place, thou stranger, to an honourable man; my brother is come to be lodged, and I have need of mine house. ²⁸These things are hard to a man of understanding; the upbraiding of houseroom, and reproaching of the lender.

CHAPTER 30

CONCERNING CHILDREN. - He that loveth his son causeth him oft to feel the rod, that he may have joy of him in the end. ²He that chastiseth his son shall profit by him, and shall boast of him among his acquaintance. ³He that teacheth his son will make his enemy jealous: and before his friends he shall rejoice of him. ⁴When his father dieth, yet he is as though he were not dead: for he hath left one behind him that is like himself. ⁵While he lived, he saw and rejoiced in him: and when he died, he was not grieved. ⁶He left behind him an avenger against his enemies, and one that shall requite kindness to his friends. ⁷He that maketh much of his son shall bind up his wounds; and his bowels will be troubled at every cry. ⁸An horse not broken becometh headstrong: and a child left to himself will be wilful. ⁹Cocker thy child, and he shall make thee afraid: play with him, and he will bring thee to heaviness. ¹⁰Laugh not with him, lest thou suffer with him, and lest thou gnash thy teeth in the end. ¹¹Give him not liberty in youth: beat his sides while he is still young, lest becoming stubborn, he disobey thee. (And overlook not his ignorance. ¹²Bow down his neck in his youth.) ¹³Train up thy son, and work with him, lest by his looseness thou be offended.

CONCERNING MEATS. - ¹⁴Better is the poor, being sound and strong of constitution, than a rich man that is afflicted in his body. ¹⁵Health and good estate of body are above any gold, and a strong body above infinite wealth. ¹⁶There is no riches above a sound body, and no joy above the joy of a heart. ¹⁷Death is better than a bitter life, and everlasting rest than continual sickness. ¹⁸Delicacies poured upon a mouth shut up are as messes of meat set upon a grave. ¹⁹What good doeth the fruit offering unto an idol? for neither can it eat nor smell: so is he that is afflicted of the Lord. ²⁰He that seeth with his eyes and groaneth, is as an eunuch that embraceth a virgin

and sigheth. ²¹Give not over thy mind to heaviness, and afflict not thyself in thine own counsel. ²²The gladness of the heart is the life of man, and the joyfulness is length of a man's days. ²³Love thine own soul, and comfort thy heart, and remove sorrow far from thee: for sorrow hath killed many, and there is no profit therein. ²⁴Envy and wrath shorten the life, and carefulness bringeth age before the time. ²⁵A cheerful and good heart at meats will have a care of his diet.

CHAPTER 31 (34)

Watching for riches consumeth the flesh, and the care thereof driveth away sleep. ²Watching care will not let a man slumber, and a sore disease breaketh sleep. ³The rich hath great labour in gathering riches together; and when he resteth, he is filled with his delicacies. ⁴The poor laboureth in his poor estate; and when he leaveth off, he is still needy. ⁵He that loveth gold shall not be justified, and he that followeth corruption shall have enough thereof. ⁶Gold hath been the ruin of many, and their destruction was present. ⁷It is a stumblingblock unto them that sacrifice unto it, and every fool shall be taken therewith. ⁸Blessed is the rich that is found without blemish, and hath not gone after gold. ⁹Who is he? and we will call him blessed: for wonderful things hath he done among his people. ¹⁰Who hath been tried thereby, and found perfect? then it shall be glory in him. Who might offend, and hath not offended? or done evil, and hath not done it? ¹¹His goods shall be established, and the congregation shall declare his alms.

¹²If thou sit at a bountiful table, be not greedy upon it, and say not, There is much meat upon it. ¹³Remember that a wicked eye is an evil thing: and what is created more wicked than an eye? therefore it weepeth upon every occasion. ¹⁴Stretch not thine hand whithersoever thou look, and thrust it not with him into the dish. ¹⁵Judge of thy neighbour by thyself: and be discreet in every point. ¹⁶Eat, as it becometh a man, those things which are set before thee; and devour not, lest thou be hated. ¹⁷Leave off first for manners' sake; and be not unsatiable, lest thou offend. ¹⁸When thou sittest among many, reach not thine hand out first of all. ¹⁹A very little is sufficient for a man well nurtured, and he fetcheth not his wind short upon his bed. ²⁰Sound sleep cometh of a moderate bowel: he riseth early, and his wits are with him: but the pain of watching, and choler, and pangs of the belly, are with an unsatiable man. ²¹And if thou hast been forced to rest, arise, go forth, vomit, and thou shalt have rest. ²²My son, hear me, and despise me not, and at the last thou shalt find as I told thee: in all thy works be quick, so shall there no sickness come unto thee. ²³Whoso is liberal of his meat, men shall speak well of him; and the report of his good housekeeping will be believed. ²⁴But against him that is niggard of his meat the whole city shall murmur; and the testimonies of his niggardness shall not be doubted of.

²⁵Shew not thy valiantness in wine; for wine hath destroyed many. ²⁶The furnace proveth the edge by dipping: so doth wine the hearts of the

proud by drunkenness. ²⁷Wine is as good as life to a man, if it be drunk moderately: what life is then to a man that is without wine? for it was made to make men glad. ²⁸Wine measurably drunk and in season bringeth gladness of the heart, and cheerfulness of the mind: ²⁹but wine drunken with excess maketh bitterness of the mind, with brawling and quarrelling. ³⁰Drunkenness increaseth the rage of a fool till he offend: it diminisheth strength, and maketh wounds. ³¹Rebuke not thy neighbour at the wine, and despise him not in his mirth: give him no despiteful words, and press not upon him with urging him (to drink).

CHAPTER 32 (35)

CONCERNING LEADERSHIP. - They have appointed thee leader, lift not up thyself, but be among them as one of the rest; take diligent care for them, and sit down. ²All when thou hast done all thy office, take thy place, that thou mayest be merry with them, and receive a crown for thy well ordering. ³Speak, thou that art the elder, for it becometh thee, but with sound judgment; and hinder not music. ⁴Pour not out words where there is entertainment, and shew not forth wisdom out of time. ⁵A concert of music in a banquet of wine is as a signet of carbuncle set in gold. ⁶As a signet of an emerald set in a work of gold, so is the melody of music with pleasant wine.

⁷Speak, young man, if there be need of thee: and yet scarce twice, and only when thou art asked. ⁸Let thy speech be short, comprehending much in few words; be as one that knoweth and yet holdeth his tongue. ⁹If thou be among great men, make not thyself equal with them; and when ancient men are in place, use not many words. ¹⁰Before the thunder goeth lightning; and before a shamefaced man shall go favour. ¹¹Rise up betimes, and be not the last; but get thee home without delay. ¹²There take thy pastime, and do what thou wilt: but sin not by proud speech. ¹³And for these things bless Him that made thee, and hath inebriated thee with His good things.

¹⁴Whoso feareth the Lord will receive instruction; and they that rise early shall find favour. ¹⁵He that seeketh the law shall be filled therewith: but the hypocrite will be made to stumble thereat. ¹⁶They that fear the Lord shall find judgment, and shall kindle justice as a light. ¹⁷A sinful man will turn away reproof, and will find a judgement according to his will.

¹⁸A man of counsel will not neglect a thought; but a strange and proud man will not tremble with fear, even when of himself he hath done without counsel. ¹⁹Do nothing without advice; and when thou hast once done, repent not. ²⁰Go not in a way wherein thou mayest fall, and stumble not upon the stony ground. ²¹Be not confident in an undiscovered way, ²²and guard against thine own children. ²³In every good work trust thy own soul; for this is the keeping of the commandments. ²⁴He that believeth in the law taketh heed to the commandments; and he that trusteth in the Lord shall never suffer loss.

CHAPTER 33 (36)

There shall no evil happen unto him that feareth the Lord; but in temptation even again He will deliver him again. ²A wise man shall not hate not the law; but he that is an hypocrite therein is as a ship in a storm. ³A man of understanding trusteth in the law; and the law is faithful to him as an oracle. ⁴Prepare what to say, and so thou shalt be heard: and bind up instruction, and then make answer. ⁵The heart of the foolish is like a cartwheel; and his thoughts are like a rolling axle tree. ⁶A stallion horse is as a mocking friend, he neigheth under every one that sitteth upon him.

⁷Why doth one day excel another, when as all the light of every day in the year is of the sun? ⁸By the knowledge of the Lord they were distinguished: and He altered seasons and feasts. ⁹Some of them hath He made high days, and hallowed them, and some of them hath He made ordinary days. ¹⁰And all men are from the ground, and Adam was created of earth. ¹¹In fullness of knowledge the Lord hath divided them, and made their ways diverse. ¹²Some of them hath He blessed and exalted, and some of them hath He sanctified, and set near Himself: but some of them hath he cursed and brought low, and turned out of their places. ¹³As the clay is in the potter's hand, to fashion it at his pleasure: so man is in the hand of Him that made him, to render to them as liketh Him best. ¹⁴Good is set against evil, and life against death: so is the godly against the sinner, and the sinner against the godly. ¹⁵So look upon all the works of the Most High; and there are two and two, one against another.

¹⁶I kept the watch last of all, as one that gathereth after the grapebearers: ¹⁷by the blessing of the Lord I arrived in season, and filled my winepress like a gatherer of grapes. ¹⁸Consider not that I laboured not for myself only, but for all them that seek instruction. ¹⁹Hear me, O ye great men of the people, and hearken with your ears, ye rulers of the congregation. ²⁰Give not thy son and wife, thy brother and friend, authority over thee while thou livest, and give not thy goods to another: lest it repent thee, and thou intreat for the same again. ²¹As long as thou livest and hast breath in thee, give not thyself over to any. ²²For better it is that thy children should seek to thee, than that thou shouldest look to the hands of thy sons. ²³In all thy works be the one that hath the preminence; bring not a stain upon thy reputation. ²⁴In the day when the days of thy life are fulfilled, at time of death, distribute thine inheritance.

CONCERNING SERVANTS. - ²⁵Fodder, a stick, and burdens, are for the ass; and bread, instruction, and work, for a servant. ²⁶If thou set thy servant to labour, thou shalt find rest: but if thou let him go idle, he will seek liberty. ²⁷A yoke and a collar will bow the neck: so are tortures and torments for an evil servant. ²⁸Send him to labour, that he be not idle; for idleness teacheth much evil. ²⁹Set him to work, as is fit for him: if he be not obedient, put on more heavy fetters. ³⁰But be not excessive toward any flesh; and without judgement do nothing. ³¹If thou have a servant, let him be unto thee as thyself, because thou hast bought him with blood. ³²If thou have a

servant, entreat him as a brother: for thou shalt have need of him, as of thine own soul. ³³If thou entreat him evil, and he run from thee, which way wilt thou go to seek him?

CHAPTER 34 (31)

The hopes of a man void of understanding are vain and false: and dreams lift up fools. ²Whoso regardeth dreams is like him that catcheth at a shadow, and followeth after the wind. ³The vision of dreams is the resemblance of one thing to another, even as the likeness of a face to a face. ⁴Of an unclean thing what can be cleansed? and from that thing that is false what truth can come? ⁵Divinations, and soothsayings, and dreams, are vain: and the heart fancieth, as a woman's heart in travail. ⁶If they be sent not from the Most High in thy visitation, set not thy heart upon them. ⁷For dreams have deceived many, and they have failed that put their trust in them. ⁸The law shall be found perfect without lies: and wisdom is perfection to a faithful mouth. ⁹A man that hath travelled knoweth many things: and he that hath much experience will declare wisdom. ¹⁰He that hath no experience knoweth little: but he that hath travelled shall increase prudence. ¹¹When I travelled, I saw many things; and my understanding is more than I can express. ¹²I was oftentimes in danger of death: yet I was delivered because of these things. ¹³The spirit of those that fear the Lord shall live; for their hope is in Him that saveth them. ¹⁴Whoso feareth the Lord shall not fear nor be afraid; for He is his hope. ¹⁵Blessed is the soul of him that feareth the Lord: to whom doth he look? and who is his strength? ¹⁶For the eyes of the Lord are upon them that love Him, He is their mighty protection and strong stay, a defence from heat, and a cover from the sun at noon, a preservation from stumbling, and an help from falling; ¹⁷He raiseth up the soul, and lighteneth the eyes: He giveth health, life, and blessing.

¹⁸He that sacrificeth of a thing wrongfully gotten, his sacrifice is blameworthy; and the gifts of unjust men are not accepted. ¹⁹The Most High is not pleased with the offerings of the wicked; neither doth He forgive sin by the multitude of sacrifices. ²⁰Whoso bringeth an offering of the goods of the poor doeth as one that killeth the son before his father's eyes. ²¹The bread of the needy is their life: he that defraudeth him thereof is a man of blood. ²²He that taketh away his neighbour's living slayeth him; and he that defraudeth the labourer his hire is a bloodshedder. ²³When one buildeth, and another pulleth down, what profit have they then but labour? ²⁴When one prayeth, and another curseth, whose voice will the Lord hear? ²⁵He that washeth himself after the touching of a dead body, if he touch it again, what availeth his washing? ²⁶So is it with a man that fasteth for his sins, and goeth again, and doeth the same: who will hear his prayer? or what doth his humbling profit him?

CHAPTER 35 (32)

He that keepeth the law multiplieth offerings: he that taketh heed to the commandments offereth a peace offering. ²He that requiteth a good turn offereth fine flour; and he that giveth alms sacrificeth praise. ³To depart from wickedness is a thing pleasing to the Lord; and to forsake unrighteousness is a propitiation. ⁴Thou shalt not appear empty before the Lord; for all these things (are to be done) because of the commandment. ⁵The offering of the righteous maketh the altar fat, and the sweet savour thereof is before the Most High. ⁶The sacrifice of a just man is acceptable, and the memorial thereof shall never be forgotten. ⁷Give the Lord His honour with a good eye, and diminish not the firstfruits of thine hands. ⁸In all thy gifts shew a cheerful countenance, and dedicate thy tithes with gladness. ⁹Give unto the Most High according as He hath enriched thee; and as thou hast gotten, give with a cheerful eye; ¹⁰for the Lord recompenseth, and will give thee seven times as much.

¹¹Do not think to corrupt with gifts: for such he will not receive: ¹²and trust not to unrighteous sacrifices; for the Lord is judge, and with Him is no respect of persons. ¹³He will not accept any person against a poor man, but will hear the cry of the oppressed. ¹⁴He will not despise the supplication of the fatherless; nor the widow, when she poureth out her complaint. ¹⁵Do not the tears run down the widow's cheeks? and is not her cry against him that causeth them to fall? ¹⁶He that serveth the Lord shall be accepted with favour, and his prayer shall reach unto the clouds. ¹⁷The prayer of the humble pierceth the clouds: and till it come nigh, he will not be comforted; ¹⁸and will not depart, till the Most High shall behold to judge righteously, and execute judgment. ¹⁹For the Lord will not be slack, neither will the Mighty be patient toward them, ²⁰till He have smitten in sunder the loins of the unmerciful, and repaid vengeance to the heathen; ²¹till He have taken away the multitude of the proud, and broken the sceptre of the unrighteous; ²²till He have rendered to every man according to his deeds, and to the works of men according to their devices; ²³till he have judged the cause of His people, and made them to rejoice in His mercy. ²⁴Mercy is seasonable in the time of affliction, as clouds of rain in the time of drought.

CHAPTER 36 (33)

Have mercy upon us, O Lord God of all, and behold us: and send all Thy fear upon all the nations that seek not after Thee. ²Lift up Thy hand against the strange nations, and let them see Thy power. ³As Thou wast sanctified in us before them: so be Thou magnified among them before us. ⁴And let them know Thee, as we have known Thee, that there is no God but only Thou, O God. ⁵Shew new signs, and make other strange wonders: glorify Thy hand and Thy right arm, that they may set forth Thy wondrous works. ⁶Raise up indignation, and pour out wrath: take away the adversary, and

destroy the enemy. ⁷Make the time short, remember the covenant, and let them declare Thy wonderful works. ⁸Let him that escapeth be consumed by the rage of the fire; and let them perish that oppress the people. ⁹Smite in sunder the heads of the rulers of the heathen, that say, There is none other but we. ¹⁰Gather all the tribes of Jacob together, and inherit Thou them, as from the beginning. ¹¹O Lord, have mercy upon the people that is called by Thy name, and upon Israel, whom Thou hast named as Thy firstborn. ¹²O be merciful unto Jerusalem, Thy holy city, the place of Thy rest. ¹³Fill Zion with Thine unspeakable oracles, and Thy people with thy glory. ¹⁴Give testimony unto those that thou hast possessed from the beginning, and raise up prophets that have been in Thy name. ¹⁵Reward them that wait for Thee, and let Thy prophets be found faithful. ¹⁶O Lord, hear the cry of Thy servants, according to the blessing of Aaron over Thy people, ¹⁷that all they which dwell upon the earth may know that Thou art the Lord, the eternal God.

¹⁸The belly devoureth all meats, yet is one meat better than another. ¹⁹As the palate tasteth divers kinds of venison: so doth an heart understanding false speeches. ²⁰A froward heart causeth heaviness: but a man of experience will recompense him. ²¹A woman will receive every man, yet is one daughter better than another. ²²The beauty of a woman cheereth the countenance, and a man loveth nothing better. ²³If there be kindness, meekness, and comfort in her tongue, then is not her husband like other men. ²⁴He that getteth a wife beginneth a possession, a help like unto himself, and a pillar of rest. ²⁵Where no hedge is, there the possession is spoiled: and he that hath no wife will wander up and down mourning. ²⁶Who will trust a thief well appointed, that skippeth from city to city? ²⁷So who will believe a man that hath no house, and lodgeth wheresoever the night taketh him?

CHAPTER 37

Every friend will say, I am his friend also: but there is a friend, which is only a friend in name. ²Is it not a grief unto death, when a companion and friend is turned to an enemy? ³O wicked imagination, whence camest thou in to cover the earth with deceit? ⁴There is a companion, which rejoiceth in the prosperity of a friend, but in the time of trouble will be against him. ⁵There is a companion, which helpeth his friend for the belly, and taketh up the buckler in time of battle. ⁶Forget not thy friend in thy mind, and be not unmindful of him in thy riches.

⁷Every counsellor extolleth counsel; but there is some that counselleth for himself. ⁸Beware of a counsellor, and know before what need he hath; for he will counsel for himself; lest he cast the lot upon thee, ⁹and say unto thee, Thy way is good: and afterward he stand on the other side, to see what shall befall thee. ¹⁰Consult not with one that suspecteth thee: and hide thy counsel from such as envy thee. ¹¹Neither consult with a woman touching her of whom she is jealous; neither with a coward in matters of war;

nor with a merchant concerning exchange; nor with a buyer of selling; nor with an envious man of thankfulness; nor with an unmerciful man touching kindness; nor with the slothful for any work; nor with an hireling for a year of finishing work; nor with an idle servant of much business: hearken not unto these in any matter of counsel. ¹²But be thou continually with a godly man, whom thou knowest to keep the commandments of the Lord, whose mind is according to thy mind, and will sorrow with thee, if thou shalt miscarry. ¹³And let the counsel of thine own heart stand: for there is no man more faithful unto thee than it; ¹⁴for a man's mind is sometime wont to tell him more than seven watchmen, that sit above in an high tower. ¹⁵And above all this pray to the Most High, that he will direct thy way in truth. ¹⁶Let reason go before every enterprise, and counsel before every action. ¹⁷The countenance is a sign of changing the heart. ¹⁸Four manners of things appear: good and evil, life and eth: but the tongue ruleth over them all continually. ¹⁹There is one that is wise and teacheth many, and yet is unprofitable to himself. ²⁰There is one that sheweth wisdom in words, and is hated: he shall be destitute of all food. ²¹For grace is not given him from the Lord; because he is deprived of all wisdom. ²²Another is wise to himself; and the fruits of understanding are commendable in his mouth. ²³A wise man instructeth his people; and the fruits of his understanding fail not. ²⁴A wise man shall be filled with blessing; and all they that see him shall count him happy. ²⁵The days of the life of a man may be numbered; but the days of Israel are innumerable. ²⁶A wise man shall inherit glory among his people, and his name shall be perpetual.

²⁷My son, prove thy soul in thy life, and see what is evil for it, and give not that unto it. ²⁸For all things are not profitable for all men, neither hath every soul pleasure in every thing. ²⁹Be not insatiable in any dainty thing, nor too greedy upon meats: ³⁰for excess of meats bringeth sickness, and surfeiting will turn into choler. ³¹By surfeiting have many perished; but he that taketh heed prolongeth his life.

CHAPTER 38

Honour a physician with the honour due unto him for the uses which ye may have of him: for the Lord hath created him. ²For of the Most High cometh healing, and he shall receive honour of the king. ³The skill of the physician shall lift up his head: and in the sight of great men he shall be in admiration. ⁴The Lord hath created medicines out of the earth; and he that is wise will not abhor them. ⁵Was not the water made sweet with wood, that the virtue thereof might be known? ⁶And He hath given men skill, that he might be honoured in His marvellous works. ⁷With such doth He heal men, and taketh away their pains. ⁸Of such doth the apothecary make a confection; and of His works there is no end; and from Him is peace over the earth. ⁹My son, in thy sickness be not negligent: but pray unto the Lord, and He will make thee whole. ¹⁰Leave off from sin, and order thine hands aright, and

cleanse thy heart from all wickedness. ¹¹Give a sweet savour, and a memorial of fine flour; and make a fat offering, as not being. ¹²Then give place to the physician, for the Lord hath created him: let him not go from thee, for thou hast need of him. ¹³There is a time when in their hands there is good success. ¹⁴For they shall also pray unto the Lord, that he would prosper that which they would give for ease and remedy to prolong life. ¹⁵He that sinneth before his Maker, let him fall into the hand of the physician.

¹⁶My son, let tears fall down over the dead, and begin to lament, as if thou hadst suffered great harm thyself; and then cover his body according to the custom, and neglect not his burial. ¹⁷Weep bitterly, and make great moan, and use lamentation, as he is worthy, and that a day or two, lest thou be evil spoken of: and then comfort thyself for thy heaviness; ¹⁸for of heaviness cometh death, and the heaviness of the heart breaketh strength. ¹⁹In affliction also sorrow remaineth: and the life of the poor is the curse of the heart. ²⁰Take no heaviness to heart: drive it away, and remember the last end. ²¹Forget him not, for there is no turning again: thou shalt not do him good, but hurt thyself. ²²Remember his judgment: for thine also shall be so; yesterday for me, and to day for thee. ²³When the dead is at rest, let his remembrance rest; and be comforted for him when his spirit is departed from him.

²⁴The wisdom of a learned man cometh by opportunity of leisure: and he that hath little business shall become wise. ²⁵How can he get wisdom that holdeth the plough, and that glorieth in the goad, that driveth oxen, and is occupied in their labours, and whose talk is of bullocks? ²⁶He giveth his mind to make furrows; and is diligent to give the kine fodder. ²⁷So every carpenter and workmaster, that laboureth night and day: and they that cut and grave seals, and are diligent to make great variety, and give themselves to counterfeit imagery, and watch to finish a work: ²⁸the smith also sitting by the anvil, and considering the iron work, the vapour of the fire wasteth his flesh, and he fighteth with the heat of the furnace: the noise of the hammer and the anvil is ever in his ears, and his eyes look still upon the pattern of the thing that he maketh; he setteth his mind to finish his work, and watcheth to polish it perfectly. ²⁹So doth the potter sitting at his work, and turning the wheel about with his feet, who is always carefully set at his work, and maketh all his work by number; ³⁰he fashioneth the clay with his arm, and boweth down his strength before his feet; he applieth himself to lead it over; and he is diligent to make clean the furnace: ³¹all these trust to their hands; and every one is wise in his work. ³²Without these cannot a city be inhabited: and they shall not dwell where they will, nor go up and down: ³³they shall not be sought for in public counsel, nor sit high in the congregation: they shall not sit on the judges' seat, nor understand the sentence of judgment: they cannot declare justice and judgment; and they shall not be found where parables are spoken. ³⁴But they will maintain the state of the world, and their desire is in the work of their craft.

CHAPTER 39

But he that giveth his mind to the law of the Most High, and is occupied in the meditation thereof, will seek out the wisdom of all the ancients, and be occupied in prophecies. ²He will keep the sayings of the renowned men: and where subtil parables are, he will be there also. ³He will seek out the secrets of grave sentences, and be conversant in dark parables. ⁴He shall serve among great men, and appear before princes: he will travel through strange countries; for he hath tried the good and the evil among men. ⁵He will give his heart to resort early to the Lord that made him, and will pray before the Most High, and will open his mouth in prayer, and make supplication for his sins. ⁶When the great Lord will, he shall be filled with the spirit of understanding: he shall pour out wise sentences, and give thanks unto the Lord in his prayer. ⁷He shall direct his counsel and knowledge, and on His secrets shall he meditate. ⁸He shall shew forth that which he hath learned, and shall glory in the law of the covenant of the Lord. ⁹Many shall commend his understanding; and so long as the world endureth, it shall not be blotted out; his memorial shall not depart away, and his name shall live from generation to generation. ¹⁰Nations shall shew forth his wisdom, and the congregation shall declare his praise. ¹¹If he die, he shall leave a greater name than a thousand: and if he live, he shall increase it.

¹²Yet have I more to say, which I have thought upon; for I am filled as the moon at the full. ¹³Hearken unto me, ye holy children, and bud forth as a rose growing by the brook of the field: ¹⁴and give ye a sweet savour as frankincense, and flourish as a lily, send forth a smell, and sing a song of praise, bless the Lord in all His works. ¹⁵Magnify His name, and shew forth His praise with the songs of your lips, and with harps, and in praising Him ye shall say after this manner: ¹⁶All the works of the Lord are exceeding good, and whatsoever He commandeth shall be accomplished in due season. ¹⁷For at time convenient they shall all be sought out: at His commandment the waters stood as an heap, and at the words of His mouth the receptacles of waters. ¹⁸At His commandment is done whatsoever pleaseth Him; and none can hinder, when he shall save. ¹⁹The works of all flesh are before Him, and nothing can be hid from His eyes. ²⁰He seeth from everlasting to everlasting; and there is nothing wonderful Him. ²¹A man need not to say, What is this? wherefore is that? for He hath made all things for their uses. ²²His blessing covered the dry land as a river, and watered it as a flood. ²³As he hath turned the waters into saltness: so shall the heathen inherit His wrath. ²⁴As His ways are plain unto the holy; so are they stumblingblocks unto the wicked. ²⁵For the good are good things created from the beginning: so evil things for sinners. ²⁶The principal things for the whole use of man's life are water, fire, iron, and salt, flour of wheat, honey, milk, and the blood of the grape, and oil, and clothing. ²⁷All these things are for good to the godly: so to the sinners they are turned into evil. ²⁸There be spirits that are created for vengeance, which in their fury lay on sore strokes; in the time of destruction they pour out their force, and appease the wrath of Him that made them. ²⁹Fire, and

hail, and famine, and death, all these were created for vengeance; ³⁰teeth of wild beasts, and scorpions, serpents, and the sword, punishing the wicked to destruction, ³¹shall rejoice in His commandment, and they shall be ready upon earth, when need is; and when their time is come, they shall not go beyond His word. ³²Therefore from the beginning I was resolved, and thought upon these things, and have left them in writing. ³³All the works of the Lord are good: and He will give every needful thing in due season. ³⁴So that a man cannot say, This is worse than that: for in time they shall all be well approved. ³⁵And therefore praise ye the Lord with the whole heart and mouth, and bless the name of the Lord.

CHAPTER 40

Great travail is created for every man, and an heavy yoke is upon the sons of Adam, from the day that they go out of the their mother's womb, till the day that they return to the mother of all things. ²Their imagination of things to come, and the day of death, their thoughts, and fear of heart; from him that sitteth on a throne of glory, unto him that is humbled in earth and ashes; ⁴from him that weareth purple and a crown, unto *him that is clothed with a linen* frock. ⁵Wrath, and envy, trouble, and unquietness, fear of death, and anger, and strife, and in the time of rest upon his bed his night sleep, do change his knowledge. ⁶Little or nothing is his rest, and afterward he is in his sleep as in a day of keeping watch, troubled in the vision of his heart, as if he were escaped out of a battle. ⁷When all is safe, he awaketh, and marvelleth that the fear was nothing. ⁸*Such things happen* unto all flesh, both man and beast, and sevenfold more upon sinners. ⁹Death, and bloodshed, strife, and sword, calamities, famine, tribulation, and the scourge; ¹⁰these things are created for the wicked, and through them came the flood. ¹¹All things that are of the earth do turn to the earth again: and that which is of the waters doth return into the sea.

¹²All bribery and injustice shall be blotted out: but true dealing shall endure for ever. ¹³The goods of the unjust shall be dried up like a river, and shall vanish with noise, like a great thunder in rain. ¹⁴When he openeth His hand He shall rejoice: so shall transgressors come to nought. ¹⁵The children of the ungodly shall not bring forth many branches: but are as unclean roots upon a hard rock. ¹⁶The weed growing upon every water and bank of a river shall be pulled up before all grass. ¹⁷Bountifulness is as a most fruitful garden, and mercifulness endureth for ever.

¹⁸To labour, and to be content with that a man hath, is a sweet life: but he that findeth a treasure is above them both. ¹⁹Children and the building of a city continue a man's name: but a blameless wife is counted above them both. ²⁰Wine and music rejoice the heart: but the love of wisdom is above them both. ²¹The pipe and the psaltery make sweet melody: but a pleasant tongue is above them both. ²²Thine eye desireth favour and beauty: but more than both corn when it is green. ²³A friend and companion never

meet amiss: but above both is a wife with her husband. ²⁴Brethren and help are against time of trouble: but alms shall deliver more than them both. ²⁵Gold and silver make the foot stand sure; but counsel is esteemed above them both. ²⁶Riches and strength lift up the heart: but the fear of the Lord is above them both: there is no want in the fear of the Lord, and it needeth not to seek help. ²⁷The fear of the Lord is a fruitful garden, and covereth him above all glory.

²⁸My son, lead not a beggar's life; for better it is to die than to beg. ²⁹The life of him that dependeth on another man's table is not to be counted for a life; for he polluteth himself with other men's meat: but a wise man well nurtured will beware thereof. ³⁰Begging is sweet in the mouth of the shameless: but in his belly there shall burn a fire.

CHAPTER 41

O death, how bitter is the remembrance of thee to a man that liveth at rest in his possessions, unto the man that hath nothing to vex him, and that hath prosperity in all things: yea, unto him that is yet able to receive meat! ²O death, acceptable is thy sentence unto the needy, and unto him whose strength faileth, that is now in the last age, and is vexed with all things, and to him that despaireth, and hath lost patience! ³Fear not the sentence of death, remember them that have been before thee, and that come after; for this is the sentence of the Lord over all flesh. ⁴And why art thou against the pleasure of the Most High? there is no inquisition in the grave, whether thou have lived ten, or an hundred, or a thousand years.

⁵The children of sinners are abominable children, and they that are conversant in the dwelling of the ungodly. ⁶The inheritance of sinners' children shall perish, and from their posterity shall be a perpetual reproach. ⁷The children will complain of an ungodly father, because they will be reproached for his sake. ⁸Who be unto you, ungodly men, which have forsaken the law of the most High God! For if ye increase, it shall be to your destruction: ⁹and if ye be born, ye shall be born to a curse: and if ye die, a curse shall be your portion. ¹⁰All that are of the earth shall turn to earth again: so the ungodly shall go from a curse to destruction.

¹¹The mourning of men is about their bodies: but an ill name of sinner shall be blotted out. ¹²Have regard to thy name; for that shall continue with thee above a thousand great treasures of gold. ¹³A good life hath but few days: but a good name endureth for ever. ¹⁴My children, keep discipline in peace: for wisdom that is hid, and a treasure that is not seen, what profit is in them both? ¹⁵A man that hideth his foolishness is better than a man that hideth his wisdom. ¹⁶Therefore be shamefaced according to my word: for it is not good to retain all shamefacedness; neither is it altogether approved in every thing. ¹⁷Be ashamed of whoredom before father and mother: and of a lie before a prince and a mighty man; ¹⁸of an offence before a judge and ruler; of iniquity before a congregation and people; ¹⁹of unjust dealing before thy

partner and friend; ¹⁹and of theft in regard of the place where thou sojournest, ²⁰and in regard of the truth of God and His covenant; and to lean with thine elbow upon the meat; ²¹and of scorning to give and take; ²⁰and of silence before them that salute thee; ²²and to look upon an harlot; and to turn away thy face from thy kinsman; ²³or to take away a portion or a gift; or to gaze upon another man's wife; ²⁴or to be overbusy with his maid, and come not near her bed; ²⁵or of upbraiding speeches before friends; and after thou hast given, upbraid not; ²⁶or of iterating and speaking again that which thou hast heard; and of revealing of secrets; ²⁷so shalt thou be truly shamefaced, and find favour before all men.

CHAPTER 42

Of these things be not thou ashamed, and accept no person to sin thereby: ²of the law of the Most High, and His covenant; and of judgment to justify the ungodly; ³of reckoning with thy partners and travellers; or of the gift of the heritage of friends; ⁴of exactness of balance and weights; or of getting too much or too little; ⁵and of merchants' indifferent selling; of much correction of children; and to make the side of an evil servant to bleed. ⁶Sure keeping is good, where an evil wife is; and locked up, where many hands are. ⁷Deliver all things in number and weight; and put all in writing that thou givest out, or receivest in. ⁸Be not ashamed to inform the unwise and foolish, and the extreme aged that contendeth with those that are young: thus shalt thou be truly learned, and approved of all men living.

⁹A daughter is a wakeful care to a father; and the care for her taketh away sleep: when she is young, lest she pass away the flower of her age; and being married, lest she should be hated: ¹⁰in her virginity, lest she should be defiled and gotten with child in her father's house; and having an husband, lest she should misbehave herself; and when she is married, lest she should be barren. ¹¹Keep a sure watch over a shameless daughter, lest she make thee a laughingstock to thine enemies, and a byword in the city, and a reproach among the people, and make thee ashamed before the multitude. ¹²Behold not everybody's beauty, and sit not in the midst of women. ¹³For from garments cometh a moth, and from women wickedness. ¹⁴Better is the churlishness of a man than a courteous woman, a woman, I say, which bringeth shame and reproach.

¹⁵I will now remember the works of the Lord, and declare the things that I have seen: in the words of the Lord are His works. ¹⁶The sun that giveth light looketh upon all things, and the work thereof is full of the glory of the Lord. ¹⁷The Lord hath not given power to the saints to declare all His marvellous works, which the Almighty firmly settled, that whatsoever is might be established for His glory. ¹⁸He seeketh out the deep, and the heart, and considereth their crafty devices: for the Lord knoweth all that can be known, and He beholdeth the signs of the world, declaring the things that are past, and for to come, and revealing the steps of hidden things. ²⁰No thought

escapeth Him, neither any word is hidden from Him. ²¹He hath garnished the excellent works of His wisdom, and he is from everlasting to everlasting: unto Him may nothing be added, neither can He be diminished, and He hath no need of any counsellor. ²²Oh how desirable are all His works! and that man may see even to a spark. ²³All these things live and remain for ever for all uses, and they are all obedient. ²⁴All things are double one against another: and He hath made nothing imperfect. ²⁵One thing establisheth the good of another: and who shall be filled with beholding His glory?

CHAPTER 43

The pride of the height, the clear firmament, the beauty of heaven, with his glorious shew; ²the sun when it appeareth, declaring at his rising a marvellous instrument, the work of the Most High: ³at noon it parcheth the country, and who can abide the burning heat thereof? ⁴A man blowing a furnace is in works of heat, but the sun burneth the mountains three times more; breathing out fiery vapours, and sending forth bright beams, it dimmeth the eyes. ⁵Great is the Lord that made it; and at His commandment it runneth hastily. ⁶He made the moon also to serve in her season for a declaration of times, and a sign of the world. ⁷From the moon is the sign of feasts, a light that decreaseth in her perfection. ⁸The month is called after her name, increasing wonderfully in her changing, being an instrument of the armies above, shining in the firmament of heaven; ⁹the beauty of heaven, the glory of the stars, an ornament giving light to the highest places of the Lord. ¹⁰At the commandment of the Holy One they will stand in their order, and never faint in their watches. ¹¹Look upon the rainbow, and praise Him that made it; very beautiful it is in the brightness thereof. ¹²It compasseth the heaven about with a glorious circle, and the hands of the Most High have bended it. ¹³By His commandment He maketh the snow to fall apace, and sendeth swiftly the lightnings of His judgment. ¹⁴Through this the treasures are opened: and clouds fly forth as fowls. ¹⁵By His great power He maketh the clouds firm, and the hailstones are broken small. ¹⁶At His sight the mountains are shaken, and at His will the south wind bloweth. ¹⁷The noise of the thunder maketh the earth to tremble: so doth the northern storm and the whirlwind: as birds flying he scattereth the snow, and the falling down thereof is as the lightning of grasshoppers: ¹⁸the eye marvelleth at the beauty of the whiteness thereof, and the heart is astonished at the raining of it. ¹⁹The hoarfrost also as salt He poureth on the earth, and being congealed, it becometh sharp peaks. ²⁰When the cold north wind bloweth, and the water is congealed into ice, it abideth upon every gathering together of water, and clotheth the water as with a breastplate. ²¹It devoureth the mountains, and burneth the wilderness, and consumeth the grass as fire. ²²A present remedy of all is a mist coming speedily: a dew coming after heat refresheth. ²³By His counsel He appeaseth the deep, and planteth islands therein. ²⁴They that sail on the sea tell of the danger thereof; and when we hear it with our ears, we

marvel thereat. ²⁵For therein be strange and wondrous works, variety of all kinds of beasts, the race of whales. ²⁶By Him the ends of them hath prosperous success, and by His word all things consist.

²⁷We may speak much, and yet come short; wherefore in sum, He is all. ²⁸How shall we be able to magnify Him? for He is great above all His works. ²⁹The Lord is terrible and very great, and marvellous in His power. ³⁰When ye glorify the Lord, exalt Him as much as ye can; for even yet will He far exceed: and when ye exalt Him, put forth all your strength, and be not weary; for ye can never go far enough. ³¹Who hath seen Him, that he might tell us? and who can magnify Him as He is? ³²There are yet hid greater things than these be, for we have seen but a few of His works. ³³For the Lord hath made all things; and to the godly hath He given wisdom.

CHAPTER 44

A HYMN UNTO THE FATHERS. - Let us now praise famous men, and our fathers that begat us. ²The Lord hath wrought great glory by them through His great power from the beginning. ³Such as did bear rule in their kingdoms, men renowned for their power, giving counsel by their understanding, and declaring prophecies: ⁴leaders of the people by their counsels, and by their knowledge of learning meet for the people, wise and eloquent in their instructions: ⁵such as found out musical tunes, and recited verses in writing: ⁶rich men furnished with ability, living peacefully in their habitations: ⁷all these were honoured in their generations, and were the glory of their times. ⁸There be of them that have left a name behind them, that their praises might be reported. ⁹And some there be, which have no memorial; who are perished, as though they had never been; and are become as though they had never been born; and their children after them. ¹⁰But these were merciful men, whose righteousness hath not been forgotten. ¹¹With their seed shall continually remain a good inheritance, and their children are within the covenant. ¹²Their seed standeth fast, and their children for their sakes. ¹³Their seed shall remain for ever, and their glory shall not be blotted out. ¹⁴Their bodies are buried in peace; but their name liveth for evermore. ¹⁵The people will tell of their wisdom, and the congregation will shew forth their praise.

¹⁶Enoch pleased the Lord, and was translated, being an example of repentance to all generations. ¹⁷Noah was found perfect and righteous; in the time of wrath he was taken in exchange (for the world;) therefore was he left as a remnant unto the earth, when the flood came. ¹⁸An everlasting covenant was made with him, that all flesh should perish no more by the flood. ¹⁹Abraham was a great father of many people: in glory was there none like unto him; ²⁰who kept the law of the Most High, and was in covenant with Him: He established the covenant in his flesh; and when he was proved, he was found faithful. ²¹Therefore He assured him by an oath, that he would bless the nations in his seed, and that he would multiply him as the dust of

the earth, and exalt his seed as the stars, and cause them to inherit from sea to sea, and from the river to the utmost part of the land. ²²With Isaac did he establish likewise for Abraham his father's sake the blessing of all men, and the covenant, ²³and made it rest upon the head of Jacob. He acknowledged him in His blessing, and gave him an heritage, and divided his portions; among the twelve tribes did He part them.

CHAPTER 45

And He brought out of him a merciful man, which found favour in the sight of all flesh, even Moses, beloved of God and men, whose memorial is blessed. ²He made him like to the glorious saints, and magnified him, so that his enemies stood in fear of him. ³By his words he caused the wonders to cease, and He made him glorious in the sight of kings, and gave him a commandment for his people, and shewed him part of His glory. ⁴He sanctified him in his faithfulness and meekness, and chose him out of all men. ⁵He made him to hear His voice, and brought him into the dark cloud, and gave him commandments before His face, even the law of life and knowledge, that he might teach Israel His covenants, and Israel His judgments. ⁶He exalted Aaron, an holy man like unto him, even his brother, of the tribe of Levi. ⁷And everlasting covenant He made with him, and gave him the priesthood among the people; He beautified him with comely ornaments, and clothed him with a robe of glory. ⁸He put upon him perfect glory; and strengthened him with rich garments, with breeches, with a long robe, and the ephod. ⁹And he compassed him about with pomegranates, and with many golden bells round about, that as he went there might be a sound, and a noise that might be heard in the temple, for a memorial to the children of His people; ¹⁰with an holy garment, with gold, and blue silk, and purple, the work of the embroiderer, with a breastplate of judgment, and with the revealers of truth; ¹¹with twisted scarlet, the work of the cunning workman, with precious stones graven like seals, and set in gold, the work of the jeweller, with a writing engraved for a memorial, after the number of the tribes of Israel. ¹²He set a crown of gold upon the mitre, wherein was engraved Holiness, an ornament of honour, a costly work, the desires of the eyes, goodly and beautiful. ¹³Before him there were none such, neither did ever any stranger put them on, but only his children, and his children's children perpetually. ¹⁴Their sacrifices shall be wholly consumed every day twice continually. ¹⁵Moses consecrated him, and anointed him with holy oil: this was appointed unto him by an everlasting covenant, and to his seed, so long as the heavens should remain, that they should minister unto Him, and execute the office of the priesthood, and bless the people in His name. ¹⁶He chose him out of all men living to offer sacrifices to the Lord, incense, and a sweet savour, for a memorial, to make reconciliation for His people. ¹⁷He gave unto him His commandments, and authority in the statutes of judgments, that he should teach Jacob the testimonies, and inform Israel in His laws.

¹⁸Strangers conspired together against Him, and maligned Him in the wilderness, even the men that were of Dathan's and Abiram's side, and the congregation of Korah, with fury and wrath. ¹⁹This the Lord saw, and it displeased Him, and in His wrathful indignation were they consumed: He did wonders upon them, to consume them with the fiery flame. ²⁰But He made Aaron more honourable, and gave him an heritage, and divided unto him the firstfruits of the increase; especially he prepared bread in abundance: ²¹for they eat of the sacrifices of the Lord, which he gave unto him and his seed. ²²Howbeit in the land of the people he had no inheritance, neither had he any portion among the people: for the Lord Himself is his portion and inheritance. ²³The third in glory is Phineas the son of Eleazar, because he had zeal in the fear of the Lord, and stood up with good courage of heart when the people were turned back, and made reconciliation for Israel. ²⁴Therefore was there a covenant of peace made with him, that he should be chief of the sanctuary and of his people, and that he and his posterity should have the dignity of the priesthood for ever: ²⁵according to the covenant made with David son of Jesse, of the tribe of Judah, that the inheritance of the king should be to his posterity alone: so the inheritance of Aaron should also be unto his seed. ²⁶God give you wisdom in your heart to judge His people in righteousness, that their good things be not abolished, and that their glory may endure for ever.

CHAPTER 46

Joshua the son of Nun was valiant in the wars, and was the successor of Moses in prophecies, who according to his name was made great for the saving of the elect of God, and taking vengeance of the enemies that rose up against them, that he might set Israel in their inheritance. ²How great glory gat he, when he did lift up his hands, and stretched out his sword against the cities! ³Who before him so stood to it? for the Lord Himself brought his enemies over to him. ⁴Did not the sun go back by his means? and was not one day as long as two? ⁵He called upon the Most High Lord, when the enemies pressed upon him on every side; and the great Lord heard him. ⁶And with hailstones of mighty power He made the battle to fall violently upon the nations, and by their falling he destroyed them that resisted, that the nations might know all their strength, because he fought in the sight of the Lord, and he followed the Mighty One. ⁷In the time of Moses also he did a work of mercy, he and Caleb son of Jephunneh, in that they withstood the enemy, and withheld the people from sin, and appeased the wicked murmuring. ⁸And of six hundred thousand people on foot, they two alone were preserved to bring them into the heritage, even unto the land that floweth with milk and honey. ⁹The Lord gave strength also unto Caleb, which remained with him unto his old age: so that he entered upon the high places of the land, and his seed obtained it for an heritage: ¹⁰that all the sons of Israel might see that it is good to follow the Lord. ¹¹And concerning the

judges, every one by name, whose heart went not a whoring, nor departed from the Lord, let their memory be blessed. ¹²Let their bones flourish out of their place, and let the name of them that were honoured be continued upon their children. ¹³Samuel, the prophet of the Lord, beloved of his Lord, established a kingdom, and anointed princes over His people. ¹⁴By the law of the Lord he judged the congregation, and the Lord had respect unto Jacob. ¹⁵By his faithfulness he was found a true prophet, and by his word he was known to be faithful in vision. ¹⁶He called upon the Mighty Lord, when his enemies pressed upon him on every side, when he offered the sucking lamb. ¹⁷And the Lord thundered from heaven, and with a great noise made His voice to be heard. ¹⁸And He destroyed the rulers of the Tyrians, and all the princes of the Philistines. ¹⁹And before his long sleep he made protestations in the sight of the Lord and His anointed, I have not taken any man's goods, so much as a shoe: and no man did accuse him. ²⁰And after his death he prophesied, and shewed the king his end, and lifted up his voice from the earth in prophecy, to blot out the wickedness of the people.

CHAPTER 47

And after him rose up Nathan to prophesy in the time of David. ²As the fat taken away from the peace offering, so was David chosen out of the sons of Israel. ³He played with lions as with kids, and with bears as with lambs. ⁴Slew he not a giant, when he was but yet young? and did he not take away reproach from the people, when he lifted up his hand with the stone in the sling, and beat down the boasting of Goliath? ⁵For he called upon the Most High Lord; and He gave him strength in his right hand to slay that mighty warrior, and set up the horn of his people. ⁶So the people honoured him with ten thousands, and praised him in the blessings of the Lord, in that He gave him a crown of glory. ⁷For he destroyed the enemies on every side, and brought to nought the Philistines his adversaries, and brake their horn in sunder unto this day. ⁸In all his works he praised the Holy One Most High with words of glory; with his whole heart he sung songs, and loved Him that made him. ⁹He set singers also before the altar, that by their voices they might make sweet melody, and daily sing praises in their songs. ¹⁰He beautified their feasts, and set in order the solemn times until the end, that they might praise His holy name, and that the temple might sound from morning. ¹¹The Lord took away his sins, and exalted his horn for ever: He gave him a covenant of kings, and a throne of glory in Israel. ¹²After him rose up a wise son, and for his sake he dwelt at large. ¹³Solomon reigned in a peaceable time, and was honoured; for God made all quiet round about him, that he might build an house in His name, and prepare His sanctuary for ever. ¹⁴How wise wast thou in thy youth, and, as a flood, filled with understanding! ¹⁵Thy soul covered the whole earth, and thou filledst it with dark parables. ¹⁶Thy name went far unto the islands; and for thy peace thou wast beloved. ¹⁷The countries marvelled at thee for thy songs, and proverbs,

and parables, and interpretations. ¹⁸By the name of the Lord God, which is called the Lord God of Israel, thou didst gather gold as tin, and didst multiply silver as lead. ¹⁹Thou didst bow thy loins unto women, and by thy body thou wast brought into subjection. ²⁰Thou didst stain thine honour, and pollute thy seed: so that thou broughtest wrath upon thy children, and wast grieved for thy folly. ²¹So the kingdom was divided, and out of Ephraim ruled a rebellious kingdom. ²²But the Lord will never leave off His mercy, neither shall any of His works perish, neither will He abolish the posterity of His elect, and the seed of him that loveth Him He will not take away: wherefore He gave a commandment unto Jacob, and out of him a root unto David. ²³Thus rested Solomon with his fathers, and of his seed he left behind him Rehoboam, even the foolishness of the people, and one that had no understanding, who turned away the people through his counsel. There was also Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who caused Israel to sin, and shewed Ephraim the way of sin. ²⁴And their sins were multiplied exceedingly, that they were driven out of the land. ²⁵For they sought out all wickedness, till the vengeance came upon them.

CHAPTER 48

Then stood up Elijah the prophet as fire, and his word burned like a lamp. ²He brought a sore famine upon them, and by his zeal he diminished their number. By the word of the Lord he shut up the heaven, and also three times brought down fire. ⁴O Elijah, how wast thou honoured in thy wondrous deeds! and who may glory like unto thee! ⁵Who didst raise up a dead man from death, and his soul from the place of the dead, by the word of the Most High: ⁶who broughtest kings to destruction, and honourable men from their bed: ⁷who heardest the rebuke of the Lord in Sinai, and in Horeb the judgment of vengeance: ⁸who anointedst kings to take revenge, and prophets to succeed after him: ⁹who wast taken up in a whirlwind of fire, and in a chariot of fiery horses: ¹⁰who wast ordained for reproofs in their times, to pacify the wrath of the Lord's judgment, before it brake forth into fury, and to turn the heart of the father unto the son, and to restore the rites of Jacob. ¹¹Blessed are they that saw thee, and slept in love; for we shall surely live. ¹²Elijah it was, who was covered with a whirlwind; and Elisha was filled with his spirit: whilst he lived, he was not moved *with the presence* of any prince, neither could any bring him into subjection. ¹³No word could overcome him; and after his death his body prophesied. ¹⁴He did wonders in his life, and at his death were his works marvellous. ¹⁵For all this the people repented not, neither departed they from their sins, till they were spoiled and carried out of their land, and were scattered through all the earth: yet there remained a small people, and a ruler in the house of David: ¹⁶of whom some did that which was pleasing to God, and some multiplied sins. ¹⁷Hezekiah fortified his city, and brought in water into the midst thereof: he digged the hard rock with iron, and made wells for waters. ¹⁸In his time Sennacherib came up, and sent

Rabshakeh, and lifted up his hand against Zion, and boasted proudly. ¹⁹Then trembled their hearts and hands, and they were in pain, as a woman in travail. ²⁰But they called upon the Lord Which is merciful, and stretched out their hand toward Him: and immediately the Holy One heard them out of heaven, and delivered them by the ministry of Isaiah. ²¹He smote the host of the Assyrians, and His angel destroyed them. ²²For Hezekiah had done the thing that pleased the Lord, and was strong in the ways of David his father, as Isaiah the prophet, who was great and faithful in his vision, had commanded him. ²³In his time the sun went backward, and He lengthened the king's life. ²⁴He saw by an excellent spirit what should come to pass at the last, and he comforted them that mourned in Zion. ²⁵He shewed what should come to pass for ever, and secret things or ever they came.

CHAPTER 49

The remembrance of Josiah is like the composition of the perfume that is made by the art of the apothecary: it is sweet as honey in all mouths, and as musick in a banquet of wine. ²He behaved himself uprightly in the conversion of the people, and took away the abominations of iniquity. ³He directed his heart unto the Lord, and in the time of the ungodly he established the worship of God. ⁴All, except David and Hezekiah and Josiah, were defective: for they forsook the law of the Most High, *even* the kings of Judah failed; ⁵for they gave their power unto others, and their glory to a strange nation. ⁶They burnt the chosen city of the sanctuary, and made the streets desolate, according to the prophecy of Jeremiah. ⁷For they entreated him evil, who nevertheless was a prophet, sanctified in his mother's womb, that he might root out, and afflict, and destroy; and that he might build up also, and plant. ⁸It was Ezekiel who saw the glorious vision, which was shewed him upon the chariot of the cherubims. ⁹For he made mention of the enemies under the figure of the rain, and directed them that went right. ¹⁰And of the twelve prophets let the memorial be blessed, and let their bones flourish again out of their place: for they comforted Jacob, and delivered them by assured hope. ¹¹How shall we magnify Zerubbabel? he was even as a signet on the right hand: ¹²so was Joshua the son of Jozadak: who in their time builded the house, and set up an holy temple to the Lord, which was prepared for everlasting glory. ¹³And among the elect was Nehemiah, whose renown is great, who raised up for us the walls that were fallen, and set up the gates and the bars, and raised up our ruins again. ¹⁴But upon the earth was no man created like Enoch, for he was taken from the earth. ¹⁵Neither was there a man like unto Joseph, a governor of his brethren, a stay of the people, whose bones were regarded of the Lord. ¹⁶Shem and Seth were in great honour among men, and so was Adam above every living thing in the creation.

CHAPTER 50

Simon the high priest, the son of Onias, who in his days repaired the house again, and in his days fortified the temple: ²and by him was built from the foundation the double height, the high fortress of the wall about the temple: ³in his days the cistern to receive water, being in compass as the sea, was covered with plates of brass: ⁴he took care of the temple that it should not fall, and fortified the city against besieging: ⁵how was he honoured in the midst of the people in his coming out of the sanctuary! ⁶He was as the morning star in the midst of a cloud, and as the moon at the full: as the sun shining upon the temple of the Most High, and as the rainbow giving light in the bright clouds: ⁸and as the flower of roses in the spring of the year, as lilies by the rivers of water, and as the branches of the frankincense tree in the time of summer: ⁹as fire and incense in the censer, and as a vessel of beaten gold set with all manner of precious stones: ¹⁰and as a fair olive tree budding forth fruit, and as a cypress tree which growth up to the clouds. ¹¹When he put on the robe of honour, and was clothed with the perfection of glory, when he went up to the holy altar, he made the garment of holiness honourable. ¹²When he took the portions out of the priests' hands, he himself stood by the hearth of the altar, compassed with his brethren round about, as a young cedar in Lebanon; and as palm trees compassed they him round about. ¹³So were all the sons of Aaron in their glory, and the oblations of the Lord in their hands, before all the congregation of Israel. ¹⁴And finishing the service at the altar, that he might adorn the offering of the Most High Almighty, he stretched out his hand to the cup, and poured out the blood of the grape, he poured out at the foot of the altar a sweet smelling savour unto the Most High King of all. ¹⁶Then shouted the sons of Aaron, and sounded the silver trumpets, and made a great noise to be heard, for a remembrance before the Most High. ¹⁷Then all the people together hasted, and fell down to the earth upon their faces to worship the Lord God Almighty, the Most High. ¹⁸The singers also sang praises with their voices, with a great variety of sounds was there made sweet melody. ¹⁹And the people besought the Lord, the Most High, by prayer before Him that is merciful, till the solemnity of the Lord was ended, and they had finished His service. ²⁰Then he went down, and lifted up his hands over the whole congregation of the sons of Israel, to give the blessing of the Lord with his lips, and to rejoice in His name. ²¹And they bowed themselves down to worship the second time, that they might receive a blessing from the Most High.

²²Now therefore bless ye the God of all, Which only doeth wondrous things every where, Which exalteth our days from the womb, and dealeth with us according to His mercy. ²³He granteth us joyfulness of heart, and that peace may be in our days in Israel for ever: ²⁴that He would confirm His mercy with us, and deliver us at this time! ²⁵There be two manner of nations which my heart abhorreth, and the third is no nation: ²⁶they that sit upon the mountain of Samaria, and they that dwell among the Philistines, and that foolish people that dwell in Shechem.

²⁷Instruction of understanding and knowledge, have I Joshua the son of Sirach of Jerusalem written in this book, who out of his heart poured forth wisdom. ²⁸Blessed is he that shall be exercised in these things; and he that layeth them up in his heart shall become wise. ²⁹For if he do them, he shall be strong to all things: for the light of the Lord is his path.

CHAPTER 51

A PRAYER OF JOSHUA SON OF SIRACH. - I will thank Thee, O Lord and King, and praise Thee, O God my Saviour: I do give praise unto Thy name: ²for Thou art my defender and helper, and hast preserved my body from destruction, and from the snare of the slanderous tongue, and from the lips that forge lies, and hast been mine helper against mine adversaries: ³and hast delivered me, according to the multitude of Thy mercies and greatness of Thy name. from the teeth of them that were ready to devour me, and out of the hands of such as sought after my life, and from the manifold afflictions which I had; ⁴from the choking of fire on every side, and from the midst of the fire which I kindled not; ⁵from the depth of the belly of Hades, from an unclean tongue, and from lying words. ⁶By an accusation to the king from an unrighteous tongue my soul drew near even unto death, my life was near to Hades beneath. ⁷They compassed me on every side, and there was no man to help me: I looked for the succour of men, but there was none. ⁸Then thought I upon Thy mercy, O Lord, and upon Thy acts of old, how Thou deliverest such as wait for Thee, and savest them out of the hands of the enemies. ⁹Then lifted I up my supplication from the earth, and prayed for deliverance from death. ¹⁰I called upon the Lord, the Father of my Lord, that he would not leave me in the days of my trouble, and in the time of the proud, when there was no help. ¹¹I will praise Thy name continually, and will sing praise with thanksgiving; and so my prayer was heard: ¹²for Thou savedst me from the evil time: therefore will I give thanks, and praise Thee, and bless Thy name, O Lord. ¹³When I was yet young, or ever I went abroad, I desired wisdom openly in my prayer. ¹⁴I prayed for her before the temple, and will seek her out even to the end. ¹⁵Even from the flower till the grape was ripe hath my heart delighted in her: my foot went the right way, from my youth up I sought after her. ¹⁶I bowed down mine ear a little, and received her, and gat much learning. ¹⁷I profited therein, therefore will I ascribe the glory unto Him that giveth me wisdom. ¹⁸For I purposed to do after her, and earnestly I followed that which is good; so shall I not be confounded. ¹⁹My soul hath wrestled with her, and in my doings I was exact: I stretched forth my hands to the heaven above, and bewailed my ignorances of her. ²⁰I directed my soul unto her, and I found her in pureness: I have had my heart joined with her from the beginning, therefore shall I not be forsaken. ²¹My heart was troubled in seeking her: therefore have I gotten a good possession. ²²The Lord hath given me a tongue for my reward, and I will praise Him therewith. ²³Draw near unto me, ye unlearned, and dwell in the house of learning. ²⁴Wherefore

are ye slow, and what say ye of these things, seeing your souls are very thirsty? ²⁵I opened my mouth, and said, Buy her for yourselves without money. ²⁶Put your neck under the yoke, and let your soul receive instruction: she is hard at hand to find. ²⁷Behold with you eyes, how I have had but little labour, and have gotten unto me much rest. ²⁸Get learning with a great sum of money, and get much gold by her. ²⁹Let your soul rejoice in His mercy, and be not ashamed of His praise. ³⁰Work your work betimes, and in His time He will give you your reward.