

**2** The heart of a wise man is in his right hand, and the heart of a fool is in his left hand.

**3** Yea, and the fool when he walketh in the way, whereas he himself is a fool, esteemeth all men fools.

**4** If the spirit of him that hath power, ascend upon thee, leave not thy place: because care will make the greatest sins to cease.

**5** There is an evil that I have seen under the sun, as it were by an error proceeding from the face of the prince:

**6** A fool set in high dignity, and the rich sitting beneath.

**7** I have seen servants upon horses: and princes walking on the ground as servants.

**8** He that diggeth a pit, shall fall into it: and he that breaketh a hedge, a serpent shall bite him.

**9** He that removeth stones, shall be hurt by them: and he that cutteth trees, shall be wounded by them.

**10** If the iron be blunt, and be not as before, but be made blunt, with much labour it shall be sharpened: and after industry shall follow wisdom.

**11** If a serpent bite in silence, he is nothing better that backbiteth secretly.

**12** The words of the mouth of a wise man are grace: but the lips of a fool shall throw him down headlong.

**13** The beginning of his words is folly, and the end of his talk is a mischievous error.

**14** A fool multiplieth words. A man cannot tell what hath been before him: and what shall be after him, who can tell him?

**15** The labour of fools shall afflict them that know not how to go to the city.

**16** Woe to thee, O land, when thy king is a child, and when the princes eat in the morning.

**17** Blessed is the land, whose king is noble, and whose princes eat in due season for refreshment, and not for riotousness.

**18** By slothfulness a building shall be brought down, and through the weakness of hands, the house shall drop through.

**19** For laughter they make bread, and wine that the living may feast: and all things obey money.

**20** Detract not the king, no not in thy thought; and speak not evil of the rich man in thy private chamber: because even the birds of the air will carry thy voice, and he that hath wings will tell what thou hast said.

## Chapter 11

Cast thy bread upon the running waters: for after a long time thou shalt find it again.

**2** Give a portion to seven, and also to eight: for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth.

**3** If the clouds be full, they will pour out rain upon the earth. If the tree fall to the south, or to the north, in what place soever it shall fall, there shall it be.

**4** He that observeth the wind, shall not sow: and he that considereth the clouds, shall never reap.

**5** As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones are joined together in the womb of her that is with child: so thou knowest not the works of God, who is the maker of all.

**6** In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening let not thy hand cease: for thou knowest not which may rather spring up, this or that: and if both together, it shall be the better.

**7** The light is sweet, and it is delightful for the eyes to see the sun.

**8** If a man live many years, and have rejoiced in them all, he must remember the darksome time, and the many days: which when they shall come, the things past shall be accused of vanity.

**9** Rejoice therefore, O young man, in thy youth, and let thy heart be in that which is good in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thy heart, and in the sight of thy eyes: and know that for all these God will bring thee into judgment.

**10** Remove anger from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh. For youth and pleasure are vain.

## Chapter 12

Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth, before the time of affliction come, and the years draw nigh of which thou shalt say: They please me not:

**2** Before the sun, and the light, and the moon, and the stars be darkened, and the clouds return after the rain:

**3** When the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall stagger, and the grinders shall be idle in a small number, and they that look through the holes shall be darkened:

**4** And they shall shut the doors in the street, when the grinder's voice shall be low, and they shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of music shall grow deaf.

**5** And they shall fear high things, and they shall be afraid in the way, the almond tree shall flourish, the locust shall be made fat, and the carper tree shall be destroyed: because man shall go into the house of his eternity, and the mourners shall go round about in the street.

**6** Before the silver cord be broken, and the golden fillet shrink back, and the pitcher be crushed at the fountain, and the wheel be broken upon the cistern,

**7** And the dust return into its earth, from whence it was, and the spirit return to God, who gave it.

**8** Vanity of vanities, said Ecclesiastes, and all things are vanity.

**9** And whereas Ecclesiastes was very wise, he taught the people, and declared the things that he had done: and seeking out, he set forth many parables.

**10** He sought profitable words, and wrote words most right, and full of truth.

**11** The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails deeply fastened in, which by the counsel of masters are given from one shepherd.

**12** More than these, my son, require not. Of making many books there is no end: and much study is an affliction of the flesh.

**13** Let us all hear together the conclusion of the discourse. Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is all man:

**14** And all things that are done, God will bring into judgment for every error, whether it be good or evil.

## Chapter 1

Let him kiss me with the kiss of his mouth: for thy breasts are better than wine,

**2** Smelling sweet of the best ointments. Thy name is as oil poured out: therefore young maidens have loved thee.

**3** Draw me: we will run after thee to the odour of thy ointments. The king hath brought me into his storerooms: we will be glad and rejoice in thee, remembering thy breasts more than wine:

the righteous love thee.

**4** I am black but beautiful, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, as the tents of Cedar, as the curtains of Solomon.

**5** Do not consider me that I am brown, because the sun hath altered my colour: the sons of my mother have fought against me, they have made me the keeper in the vineyards: my vineyard I have not kept.

**6** Shew me, O thou whom my soul loveth, where thou feedest, where thou liest in the mid-day, lest I begin to wander after the flocks of thy companions.

**7** If thou know not thyself, O fairest among women, go forth, and follow after the steps of the flocks, and feed thy kids beside the tents of the shepherds.

**8** To my company of horsemen, in Pharaoh's chariots, have I likened thee, O my love.

**9** Thy cheeks are beautiful as the turtledove's, thy neck as jewels.

**10** We will make thee chains of gold, inlaid with silver.

**11** While the king was at his repose, my spearward sent forth the odour thereof.

**12** A bundle of myrrh is my beloved to me, he shall abide between my breasts.

**13** A cluster of cypress my love is to me, in the vineyards of Engaddi.

**14** Behold thou art fair, O my love, behold thou art fair, thy eyes are as those of doves.

**15** Behold thou art fair, my beloved, and comely. Our bed is flourishing.

**16** The beams of our houses are of cedar, our rafters of cypress trees.

## Chapter 2

I am the flower of the field, and the lily of the valleys.

**2** As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters.

**3** As the apple tree among the trees of the woods, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow, whom I desired: and his fruit was sweet to my palate.

**4** He brought me into the cellar of wine, he set in order charity in me.

**5** Stay me up with flowers, compass me about with apples: because I languish with love.

**6** His left hand is under my head, and his right hand shall embrace me.

**7** I adjure you, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, by the roes, and the harts of the field, that you stir not up, nor make the beloved to awake, till she please.

**8** The voice of my beloved, behold he cometh leaping upon the mountains, skipping over the hills.

**9** My beloved is like a roe, or a young hart. Behold he standeth behind our wall, looking through the windows, looking through the lattices.

**10** Behold my beloved speaketh to me: Arise, make haste, my love, my dove, my beautiful one, and come.

**11** For winter is now past, the rain is over and gone.

**12** The flowers have appeared in our land, the time of pruning is come: the voice of the turtle is heard in our land:

**13** The fig tree hath put forth her green figs: the vines in flower yield their sweet smell. Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come:

**14** My dove in the clefts of the rock, in the hollow places of the wall, shew me thy face, let