

**38** Upon the judges' seat they shall not sit, and the ordinance of judgment they shall not understand, neither shall they declare discipline and judgment, and they shall not be found where parables are spoken:

**39** But they shall strengthen the state of the world, and their prayer shall be in the work of their craft, applying their soul, and searching in the law of the most High.

## Chapter 39

The wise man will seek out the wisdom of all the ancients, and will be occupied in the prophets.

**2** He will keep the sayings of renowned men, and will enter withal into the subtilties of parables.

**3** He will search out the hidden meanings of proverbs, and will be conversant in the secrets of parables.

**4** He shall serve among great men, and appear before the governor.

**5** He shall pass into strange countries: for he shall try good and evil among men.

**6** He will give his heart to resort early to the Lord that made him, and he will pray in the sight of the most High.

**7** He will open his mouth in prayer, and will make supplication for his sins.

**8** For if it shall please the great Lord, he will fill him with the spirit of understanding:

**9** And he will pour forth the words of his wisdom as showers, and in his prayer he will confess to the Lord.

**10** And he shall direct his counsel, and his knowledge, and in his secrets shall he meditate.

**11** He shall shew forth the discipline he hath learned, and shall glory in the law of the covenant of the Lord.

**12** Many shall praise his wisdom, and it shall never be forgotten.

**13** The memory of him shall not depart away, and his name shall be in request from generation to generation.

**14** Nations shall declare his wisdom, and the church shall shew forth his praise.

**15** If he continue, he shall leave a name above a thousand: and if he rest, it shall be to his advantage.

**16** I will yet meditate that I may declare: for I am filled as with a holy transport.

**17** By a voice he saith: Hear me, ye divine offspring, and bud forth as the rose planted by the brooks of waters.

**18** Give ye a sweet odour as frankincense.

**19** Send forth flowers, as the lily, and yield a smell, and bring forth leaves in grace, and praise with canticles, and bless the Lord in his works.

**20** Magnify his name, and give glory to him with the voice of your lips, and with the canticles of your mouths, and with harps, and in praising him, you shall say in this manner:

**21** All the works of the Lord are exceeding good.

**22** At his word the waters stood as a heap: and at the words of his mouth the receptacles of waters:

**23** For at his commandment favour is shewn, and there is no diminishing of his salvation.

**24** The works of all flesh are before him, and there is nothing hid from his eyes.

**25** He seeth from eternity to eternity, and there is nothing wonderful before him.

**26** There is no saying: What is this, or what is that? for all things shall be sought in their time.

**27** His blessing hath overflowed like a river.

**28** And as a flood hath watered the earth; so shall his wrath inherit the nations, that have not

sought after him.

**29** Even as he turned the waters into a dry land, and the earth was made dry: and his ways were made plain for their journey: so to sinners they are stumblingblocks in his wrath.

**30** Good things were created for the good from the beginning, so for the wicked, good and evil things.

**31** The principal things necessary for the life of men, are water, fire, and iron, salt, milk, and bread of flour, and honey, and the cluster of the grape, and oil, and clothing.

**32** All these things shall be for good to the holy, so to the sinners and the ungodly they shall be turned into evil.

**33** There are spirits that are created for vengeance, and in their fury they lay on grievous torments.

**34** In the time of destruction they shall pour out their force: and they shall appease the wrath of him that made them.

**35** Fire, hail, famine, and death, all these were created for vengeance.

**36** The teeth of beasts, and scorpions, and serpents, and the sword taking vengeance upon the ungodly unto destruction.

**37** In his commandments they shall feast, and they shall be ready upon earth when need is, and when their time is come they shall not transgress his word.

**38** Therefore from the beginning I was resolved, and I have meditated, and thought on these things and left them in writing,

**39** All the works of the Lord are good, and he will furnish every work in due time.

**40** It is not to be said: This is worse than that: for all shall be well approved in their time.

**41** Now therefore with the whole heart and mouth praise ye him, and bless the name of the Lord.

## Chapter 40

Great labour is created for all men, and a heavy yoke is upon the children of Adam from the day of their coming out of their mother's womb, until the day of their burial into the mother of all.

**2** Their thoughts, and fears of the heart, their imagination of things to come, and the day of their end:

**3** From him that sitteth on a glorious throne, unto him that is humbled in earth and ashes:

**4** From him that weareth purple, and beareth the crown, even to him that is covered with rough linen: wrath, envy, trouble, unquietness, and the fear of death, continual anger, and strife,

**5** And in the time of rest upon his bed, the sleep of the night changeth his knowledge.

**6** A little and as nothing is his rest, and afterward in sleep, as in the day of keeping watch.

**7** He is troubled in the vision of his heart, as if he had escaped in the day of battle. In the time of his safety he rose up, and wondereth that there is no fear.

**8** Such things happen to all flesh, from man even to beast, and upon sinners are sevenfold more.

**9** Moreover, death, and bloodshed, strife, and sword, oppressions, famine, and affliction, and scourges:

**10** All these things are created for the wicked, and for their sakes came the flood.

**11** All things that are of the earth, shall return to the earth again, and all waters shall return to the sea.

**12** All bribery, and injustice shall be blotted out, and fidelity shall stand for ever.

**13** The riches of the unjust shall be dried up like a river, and shall pass away with a noise like a great thunder in rain.

**14** While he openeth his hands he shall rejoice: but transgressors shall pine away in the end.

**15** The offspring of the ungodly shall not bring forth many branches, and make a noise as unclean roots upon the top of a rock.

**16** The weed growing over every water, and at the bank of the river, shall be pulled up before all grass.

**17** Grace is like a paradise in blessings, and mercy remaineth for ever.

**18** The life of a laborer that is content with what he hath, shall be sweet, and in it thou shalt find a treasure.

**19** Children, and the building of a city shall establish a name, but a blameless wife shall be counted above them both.

**20** Wine and music rejoice the heart, but the love of wisdom is above them both.

**21** The flute and the psaltery make a sweet melody, but a pleasant tongue is above them both.

**22** Thy eye desireth favour and beauty, but more than these green sown fields.

**23** A friend and companion meeting together in season, but above them both is a wife with her husband.

**24** Brethren are a help in the time of trouble, but mercy shall deliver more than they.

**25** Gold and silver make the feet stand sure: but wise counsel is above them both.

**26** Riches and strength lift up the heart: but above these is the fear of the Lord.

**27** There is no want in the fear of the Lord, and it needeth not to seek for help.

**28** The fear of the Lord is like a paradise of blessing, and they have covered it above all glory.

**29** My son, in thy lifetime be not indigent: for it is better to die than to want.

**30** The life of him that looketh toward another man's table is not to be counted a life: for he

feedeth his soul with another man's meat.

**31** But a man, well instructed and taught, will look to himself.

**32** Begging will be sweet in the mouth of the unwise, but in his belly there shall burn a fire.

## Chapter 41

O death, how bitter is the remembrance of thee to a man that hath peace in his possessions!

**2** To a man that is at rest, and whose ways are prosperous in all things, and that is yet able to take meat!

**3** O death thy sentence is welcome to the man that is in need, and to him whose strength faileth:

**4** Who is in a decrepit age, and that is in care about all things, and to the distrustful that loseth patience!

**5** Fear not the sentence of death. Remember what things have been before thee, and what shall come after thee: this sentence is from the Lord upon all flesh.

**6** And what shall come upon thee by the good pleasure of the most High? whether ten, or a hundred, or a thousand years.

**7** For among the dead there is no accusing of life.

**8** The children of sinners become children of abominations, and they that converse near the houses of the ungodly.

**9** The inheritance of the children of sinners shall perish, and with their posterity shall be a perpetual reproach.

**10** The children will complain of an ungodly father, because for his sake they are in reproach.

**11** Woe to you, ungodly men, who have forsaken the law of the most high Lord.