

**17** Give testimony to them that are thy creatures from the beginning, and raise up the prophecies which the former prophets spoke in thy name.

**18** Reward them that patiently wait for thee, that thy prophets may be found faithful: and hear the prayers of thy servants,

**19** According to the blessing of Aaron over thy people, and direct us into the way of justice, and let all know that dwell upon the earth, that thou art God the beholder of all ages.

**20** The belly will devour all meat, yet one is better than another.

**21** The palate tasteth venison and the wise heart false speeches.

**22** A perverse heart will cause grief, and a man of experience will resist it.

**23** A woman will receive every man: yet one daughter is better than another.

**24** The beauty of a woman cheereth the countenance of her husband, and a man desireth nothing more.

**25** If she have a tongue that can cure, and likewise mitigate and shew mercy: her husband is not like other men.

**26** He that possesseth a good wife, beginneth a possession: she is a help like to himself, and a pillar of rest.

**27** Where there is no hedge, the possession shall be spoiled: and where there is no wife, he mourneth that is in want.

**28** Who will trust him that hath no rest, and that lodgeth wheresoever the night taketh him, as a robber well appointed, that skippeth from city to city.

## Chapter 37

Every friend will say: I also am his friend: but there is a friend, that is only a friend in name. Is not this a grief even to death?

**2** But a companion and a friend shall be turned to an enemy.

**3** O wicked presumption, whence camest thou to cover the earth with thy malice, and deceitfulness?

**4** There is a companion who rejoiceth with his friend in his joys, but in the time of trouble, he will be against him.

**5** There is a companion who condoleth with his friend for his belly's sake, and he will take up a shield against the enemy.

**6** Forget not thy friend in thy mind, and be not unmindful of him in thy riches.

**7** Consult not with him that layeth a snare for thee, and hide thy counsel from them that envy thee.

**8** Every counsellor giveth out counsel, but there is one that is a counsellor for himself.

**9** Beware of a counsellor. And know before what need he hath: for he will devise to his own mind:

**10** Lest he thrust a stake into the ground, and say to thee:

**11** Thy way is good; and then stand on the other side to see what shall befall thee.

**12** Treat not with a man without religion concerning holiness, nor with an unjust man concerning justice, nor with a woman touching her of whom she is jealous, nor with a coward concerning war, nor with a merchant about traffic, nor with a buyer of selling, nor with an envious man of giving thanks,

**13** Nor with the ungodly of piety, nor with the dishonest of honesty, nor with the field laborer of every work,

**14** Nor with him that worketh by the year of the finishing of the year, nor with an idle servant of much business: give no heed to these in any matter of counsel.

**15** But be continually with a holy man, whomsoever thou shalt know to observe the fear of God,

**16** Whose soul is according to thy own soul: and who, when thou shalt stumble in the dark, will be sorry for thee.

**17** And establish within thyself a heart of good counsel: for there is no other thing of more worth to thee than it.

**18** The soul of a holy man discovereth sometimes true things, more than seven watchmen that sit in a high place to watch.

**19** But above all these things pray to the most High, that he may direct thy way in truth.

**20** In all thy works let the true word go before thee, and steady counsel before every action.

**21** A wicked word shall change the heart: out of which four manner of things arise, good and evil, life and death: and the tongue is continually the ruler of them. There is a man that is subtle and a teacher of many, and yet is unprofitable to his own soul.

**22** A skilful man hath taught many, and is sweet to his own soul.

**23** He that speaketh sophistically, is hateful: he shall be destitute of every thing.

**24** Grace is not given him from the Lord: for he is deprived of all wisdom.

**25** There is a wise man that is wise to his own soul: and the fruit of his understanding is commendable.

**26** A wise man instructeth his own people, and the fruits of his understanding are faithful.

**27** A wise man shall be filled with blessings, and they that see shall praise him.

**28** The life of a man is in the number of his days: but the days of Israel are innumerable.

**29** A wise man shall inherit honour among his people, and his name shall live for ever.

**30** My son, prove thy soul in thy life: and if it be wicked, give it no power:

**31** For all things are not expedient for all, and every kind pleaseth not every soul.

**32** Be not greedy in any feasting, and pour not out thyself upon any meat:

**33** For in many meats there will be sickness, and greediness will turn to choler.

**34** By surfeiting many have perished, but he that is temperate, shall prolong life.

## Chapter 38

Honour the physician for the need thou hast of him: for the most High hath created him.

**2** For all healing is from God, and he shall receive gifts of the king.

**3** The skill of the physician shall lift up his head, and in the sight of great men he shall be praised.

**4** The most High hath created medicines out of the earth, and a wise man will not abhor them.

**5** Was not bitter water made sweet with wood?

**6** The virtue of these things is come to the knowledge of men, and the most High hath given knowledge to men, that he may be honoured in his wonders.

**7** By these he shall cure and shall allay their pains, and of these the apothecary shall make sweet confections, and shall make up ointments of health, and of his works there shall be no end.

**8** For the peace of God is over all the face of the earth.

**9** My son, in thy sickness neglect not thyself, but pray to the Lord, and he shall heal thee.

**10** Turn away from sin and order thy hands aright, and cleanse thy heart from all offence.

**11** Give a sweet savour, and a memorial of fine flour, and make a fat offering, and then give place to the physician.

**12** For the Lord created him: and let him not depart from thee, for his works are necessary.

**13** For there is a time when thou must fall into their hands:

**14** And they shall beseech the Lord, that he would prosper what they give for ease and remedy, for their conversation.

**15** He that sinneth in the sight of his Maker, shall fall into the hands of the physician.

**16** My son, shed tears over the dead, and begin to lament as if thou hadst suffered some great harm, and according to judgment cover his body, and neglect not his burial.

**17** And for fear of being ill spoken of weep bitterly for a day, and then comfort thyself in thy sadness.

**18** And make mourning for him according to his merit for a day, or two, for fear of detraction.

**19** For of sadness cometh death, and it overwhelmeth the strength, and the sorrow of the heart boweth down the neck.

**20** In withdrawing aside sorrow remaineth: and the substance of the poor is according to his heart.

**21** Give not up thy heart to sadness, but drive it from thee: and remember the latter end.

**22** Forget it not: for there is no returning, and thou shalt do him no good, and shalt hurt thyself.

**23** Remember my judgment: for thine also shall be so: yesterday for me, and to day for thee.

**24** When the dead is at rest, let his remembrance rest, and comfort him in the departing of his spirit.

**25** The wisdom of a scribe cometh by his time of leisure: and he that is less in action, shall receive wisdom.

**26** With what wisdom shall he be furnished that holdeth the plough, and that glorieth in the goad, that driveth the oxen therewith, and is occupied in their labours, and his whole talk is about the offspring of bulls?

**27** He shall give his mind to turn up furrows, and his care is to give the kine fodder.

**28** So every craftsman and workmaster that laboureth night and day, he who maketh graven seals, and by his continual diligence varieth the figure: he shall give his mind to the resemblance of the picture, and by his watching shall finish the work.

**29** So doth the smith 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.

**30** The noise of the hammer is always in his ears, and his eye is upon the pattern of the vessel he maketh.

**31** He setteth his mind to finish his work, and his watching to polish them to perfection.

**32** So doth the potter sitting at his work, turning the wheel about with his feet, who is always carefully set to his work, and maketh all his work by number:

**33** He fashioneth the clay with his arm, and boweth down his strength before his feet:

**34** He shall give his mind to finish the glazing, and his watching to make clean the furnace.

**35** All these trust to their hands, and every one is wise in his own art.

**36** Without these a city is not built.

**37** And they shall not dwell, nor walk about therein, and they shall not go up into the assembly.