**CHAPTER** **20**

*Sophar declares the shortness of the prosperity of the wicked; and their sudden downfall.*

**1** Then Sophar the Naamathite answered, and said:

**2** Therefore various thoughts succeed one another in me, and my mind is hurried away to different things.

**3** The doctrine with which thou reprovest me, I will hear, and the spirit of my understanding shall answer for me.

**4** This I know from the beginning, since man was placed upon the earth,

**5** That the praise of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment.

**6** If his pride mount up even to heaven, and his head touch the clouds:

**7** In the end he shall be destroyed like a dunghill, and they that had seen him, shall say: Where is he?

**8** As a dream that fleeth away he shall not be found, he shall pass as a vision of the night:

**9** The eyes that had seen him, shall see him no more, neither shall his place any more behold him.

**10** His children shall be oppressed with want, and his hands shall render to him his sorrow.

**11** His bones shall be filled with the vices of his youth, and they shall sleep with him in the dust.

**12** For when evil shall be sweet in his mouth, he will hide it under his tongue.

**13** He will spare it, and not leave it, and will hide it in his throat.

**14** His bread in his belly shall be turned into the gall of asps within him.

**15** The riches which he hath swallowed, he shall vomit up, and God shall draw them out of his belly.

**16** He shall suck the head of asps, and the viper’s tongue shall kill him.

**17** (Let him not see the streams of the river, the brooks of honey and of butter.)

**18** He shall be punished for all that he did, and yet shall not be consumed: according to the multitude of his devices so also shall he suffer.

**19** Because he broke in and stripped the poor: he hath violently taken away a house which he did not build.

**20** And yet his belly was not filled: and when he hath the things he coveted, he shall not be able to possess them.

**21** There was nothing left of his meat, and therefore nothing shall continue of his goods:

**22** When he shall be filled, he shall be straitened, he shall burn, and every sorrow shall fall upon him.

**23** May his belly be filled, that God may send forth the wrath of his indignation upon him, and rain down his war upon him.

**24** He shall flee from weapons of iron, and shall fall upon a bow of brass.

**25** The sword is drawn out, and cometh forth from its scabbard, and glittereth in his bitterness: the terrible ones shall go and come upon him.

**26** All darkness is hid in his secret places: a fire that is not kindled shall devour him, he shall be afflicted when left in his tabernacle.

**27** The heavens shall reveal his iniquity, and the earth shall rise up against him.

**28** The offspring of his house shall be exposed, he shall be pulled down in the day of God’s wrath.

**29** This is the portion of a wicked man from God, and the inheritance of his doings from the Lord.