**CHAPTER** **24**

**1** Seek not to be like evil men, neither desire to be with them:

**2** Because their mind studieth robberies, and their lips speak deceits.

**3** By wisdom the house shall be built, and by prudence it shall be strengthened.

**4** By instruction the storerooms shall be filled with all precious and most beautiful wealth.

**5** A wise man is strong: and a knowing man, stout and valiant.

**6** Because war is managed by due ordering: and there shall be safety where there are many counsels.

**7** Wisdom is too high for a fool, in the gate he shall not open his mouth.

**8** He that deviseth to do evils, shall be called a fool.

**9** The thought of a fool is sin: and the detracter is the abomination of men.

**10** If thou lose hope being weary in the day of distress, thy strength shall be diminished.

**11** Deliver them that are led to death: and those that are drawn to death forbear not to deliver.

**12** If thou say: I have not strength enough: he that seeth into the heart, he understandeth, and nothing deceiveth the keeper of thy soul, and he shall render to a man according to his works.

**13** Eat honey, my son, because it is good, and the honeycomb most sweet to thy throat:

**14** So also is the doctrine of wisdom to thy soul: which when thou hast found, thou shalt have hope in the end, and thy hope shall not perish.

**15** Lie not in wait, nor seek after wickedness in the house of the just, nor spoil his rest.

**16** For a just man shall fall seven times and shall rise again: but the wicked shall fall down into evil.

**17** When thy enemy shall fall, be not glad, and in his ruin let not thy heart rejoice:

**18** Lest the Lord see, and it displease him, and he turn away his wrath from him.

**19** Contend not with the wicked, nor seek to be like the ungodly:

**20** For evil men have no hope of things to come, and the lamp of the wicked shall be put out.

**21** My son, fear the Lord and the king: and have nothing to do with detractors.

**22** For their destruction shall rise suddenly: and who knoweth the ruin of both?

**23** These things also to the wise: It is not good to have respect to persons in judgment.

**24** They that say to the wicked man: Thou art just: shall be cursed by the people, and the tribes shall abhor them.

**25** They that rebuke him, shall be praised: and a blessing shall come upon them.

**26** He shall kiss the lips, who answereth right words.

**27** Prepare thy work without, and diligently till thy ground: that afterward thou mayst build thy house.

**28** Be not witness without cause against thy neighbour: and deceive not any man with thy lips.

**29** Say not: I will do to him as he hath done to me: I will render to every one according to his work.

**30** I passed by the field of the slothful man, and by the vineyard of the foolish man:

**31** And behold it was all filled with nettles, and thorns had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall was broken down.

**32** Which when I had seen, I laid it up in my heart, and by the example I received instruction.

**33** Thou wilt sleep a little, said I, thou wilt slumber a little, thou wilt fold thy hands a little to rest:

**34** And poverty shall come to thee as a runner, and beggary as an armed man.