**CHAPTER** **24**

*Wisdom praiseth herself: her origin, her dwelling, her dignity, and her fruits.*

**1** Wisdom shall praise her own self, and shall be honoured in God, and shall glory in the midst of her people,

**2** And shall open her mouth in the churches of the most High, and shall glorify herself in the sight of his power,

**3** And in the midst of her own people she shall be exalted, and shall be admired in the holy assembly.

**4** And in the multitude of the elect she shall have praise, and among the blessed she shall be blessed, saying:

**5** I came out of the mouth of the most High, the firstborn before all creatures:

**6** I made that in the heavens there should rise light that never faileth, and as a cloud I covered all the earth:

**7** I dwelt in the highest places, and my throne is in a pillar of a cloud.

**8** I alone have compassed the circuit of heaven, and have penetrated into the bottom of the deep, and have walked in the waves of the sea,

**9** And have stood in all the earth: and in every people,

**10** And in every nation I have had the chief rule:

**11** And by my power I have trodden under my feet the hearts of all the high and low: and in all these I sought rest, and I shall abide in the inheritance of the Lord.

**12** Then the creator of all things commanded, and said to me: and he that made me, rested in my tabernacle,

**13** And he said to me: Let thy dwelling be in Jacob, and thy inheritance in Israel, and take root in my elect.

**14** From the beginning, and before the world, was I created, and unto the world to come I shall not cease to be, and in the holy dwelling place I have ministered before him.

**15** And so was I established in Sion, and in the holy city likewise I rested, and my power was in Jerusalem.

**16** And I took root in an honourable people, and in the portion of my God his inheritance, and my abode is in the full assembly of saints.

**17** I was exalted like a cedar in Libanus, and as a cypress tree on mount Sion.

**18** I was exalted like a palm tree in Cades, and as a rose plant in Jericho:

**19** As a fair olive tree in the plains, and as a plane tree by the water in the streets, was I exalted.

**20** I gave a sweet smell like cinnamon, and aromatical balm: I yielded a sweet odour like the best myrrh:

**21** And I perfumed my dwelling as storax, and galbanum, and onyx, and aloes, and as the frankincense not cut, and my odour is as the purest balm.

**22** I have stretched out my branches as the turpentine tree, and my branches are of honour and grace.

**23** As the vine I have brought forth a pleasant odour: and my flowers are the fruit of honour and riches.

**24** I am the mother of fair love, and of fear, and of knowledge, and of holy hope.

**25** In me is all grace of the way and of the truth, in me is all hope of life and of virtue.

**26** Come over to me, all ye that desire me, and be filled with my fruits.

**27** For my spirit is sweet above honey, and my inheritance above honey and the honeycomb.

**28** My memory is unto everlasting generations.

**29** They that eat me, shall yet hunger: and they that drink me, shall yet thirst.

**30** He that hearkeneth to me, shall not be confounded: and they that work by me, shall not sin.

**31** They that explain me shall have life everlasting.

**32** All these things are the book of life, and the covenant of the most High, and the knowledge of truth.

**33** Moses commanded a law in the precepts of justices, and an inheritance to the house of Jacob, and the promises to Israel.

**34** He appointed to David his servant to raise up of him a most mighty king, and sitting on the throne of glory for ever.

**35** Who filleth up wisdom as the Phison, and as the Tigris in the days of the new fruits.

**36** Who maketh understanding to abound as the Euphrates, who multiplieth it as the Jordan in the time of harvest.

**37** Who sendeth knowledge as the light, and riseth up as Gehon in the time of the vintage.

**38** Who first hath perfect knowledge of her, and a weaker shall not search her out.

**39** For her thoughts are more vast than the sea, and her counsels more deep than the great ocean.

**40** I, wisdom, have poured out rivers.

**41** I, like a brook out of a river of a mighty water; I, like a channel of a river, and like an aqueduct, came out of paradise.

**42** I said: I will water my garden of plants, and I will water abundantly the fruits of my meadow.

**43** And behold my brook became a great river, and my river came near to a sea:

**44** For I make doctrine to shine forth to all as the morning light, and I will declare it afar off.

**45** I will penetrate to all the lower parts of the earth, and will behold all that sleep, and will enlighten all that hope in the Lord.

**46** I will yet pour out doctrine as prophecy, and will leave it to them that seek wisdom, and will not cease to instruct their offspring even to the holy age.

**47** See ye that I have not laboured for myself only, but for all that seek out the truth.