**CHAPTER** **34**

*The vanity of dreams. The advantage of experience, and of the fear of God.*

**1** The hopes of a man that is void of understanding are vain and deceitful: and dreams lift up fools.

**2** The man that giveth heed to lying visions, is like to him that catcheth at a shadow, and followeth after the wind.

**3** The vision of dreams is the resemblance of one thing to another: as when a man’s likeness is before the face of a man.

**4** What can be made clean by the unclean? and what truth can come from that which is false?

**5** Deceitful divinations and lying omens and the dreams of evildoers, are vanity:

**6** And the heart fancieth as that of a woman in travail: except it be a vision sent forth from the most High, set not thy heart upon them.

**7** For dreams have deceived many, and they have failed that put their trust in them.

**8** The word of the law shall be fulfilled without a lie, and wisdom shall be made plain in the mouth of the faithful.

**9** What doth he know, that hath not been tried? A man that hath much experience, shall think of many things: and he that hath learned many things, shall shew forth understanding.

**10** He that hath no experience, knoweth little: and he that hath been experienced in many things, multiplieth prudence.

**11** He that hath not been tried, what manner of things doth he know? he that hath been surprised, shall abound with subtlety.

**12** I have seen many things by travelling, and many customs of things.

**13** Sometimes I have been in danger of death for these things, and I have been delivered by the grace of God.

**14** The spirit of those that fear God, is sought after, and by his regard shall be blessed.

**15** For their hope is on him that saveth them, and the eyes of God are upon them that love him.

**16** He that feareth the Lord shall tremble at nothing, and shall not be afraid: for he is his hope.

**17** The soul of him that feareth the Lord is blessed.

**18** To whom doth he look, and who is his strength?

**19** The eyes of the Lord are upon them that fear him, he is their powerful protector, and strong stay, a defence from the heat, and a cover from the sun at noon,

**20** A preservation from stumbling, and a help from falling; he raiseth up the soul, and enlighteneth the eyes, and giveth health, and life, and blessing.

**21** The offering of him that sacrificeth of a thing wrongfully gotten, is stained, and the mockeries of the unjust are not acceptable.

**22** The Lord is only for them that wait upon him in the way of truth and justice.

**23** The most High approveth not the gifts of the wicked: neither hath he respect to the oblations of the unjust, nor will he be pacified for sins by the multitude of their sacrifices.

**24** He that offereth sacrifice of the goods of the poor, is as one that sacrificeth the son in the presence of his father.

**25** The bread of the needy, is the life of the poor: he that defraudeth them thereof, is a man of blood.

**26** He that taketh away the bread gotten by sweat, is like him that killeth his neighbour.

**27** He that sheddeth blood, and he that defraudeth the laborer of his hire, are brothers.

**28** When one buildeth up, and another pulleth down: what profit have they but the labour?

**29** When one prayeth, and another curseth: whose voice will God hear?

**30** He that washeth himself after touching the dead, if he toucheth him again, what doth his washing avail?

**31** So a man that fasteth for his sins, and doth the same again, what doth his humbling himself profit him? who will hear his prayer?