**CHAPTER** **28**

*Man’s industry searcheth out many things: true wisdom is taught by God alone.*

**1** Silver hath beginnings of its veins, and gold hath a place wherein it is melted.

**2** Iron is taken out of the earth, and stone melted with heat is turned into brass.

**3** He hath set a time for darkness, and the end of all things he considereth, the stone also that is in the dark and the shadow of death.

**4** The flood divideth from the people that are on their journey, those whom the food of the needy man hath forgotten, and who cannot be come at.

**5** The land, out of which bread grew in its place, hath been overturned with fire.

**6** The stones of it are the place of sapphires, and the clods of it are gold.

**7** The bird hath not known the path, neither hath the eye of the vulture beheld it.

**8** The children of the merchants have not trodden it, neither hath the lioness passed by it.

**9** He hath stretched forth his hand to the flint, he hath overturned mountains from the roots.

**10** In the rocks he hath cut out rivers, and his eye hath seen every precious thing.

**11** The depths also of rivers he hath searched, and hidden things he hath brought forth to light.

**12** But where is wisdom to be found, and where is the place of understanding?

**13** Man knoweth not the price thereof, neither is it found in the land of them that live in delights.

**14** The depth saith: It is not in me: and the sea saith: It is not with me.

**15** The finest gold shall not purchase it, neither shall silver be weighed in exchange for it.

**16** It shall not be compared with the dyed colours of India, or with the most precious stone sardonyx, or the sapphire.

**17** Gold or crystal cannot equal it, neither shall any vessels of gold be changed for it.

**18** High and eminent things shall not be mentioned in comparison of it: but wisdom is drawn out of secret places.

**19** The topaz of Ethiopia shall not be equal to it, neither shall it be compared to the cleanest dyeing.

**20** Whence then cometh wisdom? and where is the place of understanding?

**21** It is hid from the eyes of all living, and the fowls of the air know it not.

**22** Destruction and death have said: With our ears we have heard the fame thereof.

**23** God understandeth the way of it, and he knoweth the place thereof.

**24** For he beholdeth the ends of the world: and looketh on all things that are under heaven.

**25** Who made a weight for the winds, and weighed the waters by measure.

**26** When he gave a law for the rain, and a way for the sounding storms.

**27** Then he saw it, and declared, and prepared, and searched it.

**28** And he said to man: Behold the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom: and to depart from evil, is understanding.