**CHAPTER** **20**

**1** Wine is a luxurious thing, and drunkenness riotous: whosoever is delighted therewith shall not be wise.

**2** As the roaring of a lion, so also is the dread of a king: he that provoketh him, sinneth against his own soul.

**3** It is an honour for a man to separate himself from quarrels: but all fools are meddling with reproaches.

**4** Because of the cold the sluggard would not plough: he shall beg therefore in the summer, and it shall not be given him.

**5** Counsel in the heart of a man is like deep water: but a wise man will draw it out.

**6** Many men are called merciful: but who shall find a faithful man?

**7** The just that walketh in his simplicity, shall leave behind him blessed children.

**8** The king, that sitteth on the throne of judgment, scattereth away all evil with his look.

**9** Who can say: My heart is clean, I am pure from sin?

**10** Diverse weights and diverse measures, both are abominable before God.

**11** By his inclinations a child is known, if his works be clean and right.

**12** The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the Lord hath made them both.

**13** Love not sleep, lest poverty oppress thee: open thy eyes, and be filled with bread.

**14** It is nought, it is nought, saith every buyer: and when he is gone away, then he will boast.

**15** There is gold, and a multitude of jewels: but the lips of knowledge are a precious vessel.

**16** Take away the garment of him that is surety for a stranger, and take a pledge from him for strangers.

**17** The bread of lying is sweet to a man: but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel.

**18** Designs are strengthened by counsels: and wars are to be managed by governments.

**19** Meddle not with him that revealeth secrets, and walketh deceitfully, and openeth wide his lips.

**20** He that curseth his father, and mother, his lamp shall be put out in the midst of darkness.

**21** The inheritance gotten hastily in the beginning, in the end shall be without a blessing.

**22** Say not: I will return evil: wait for the Lord and he will deliver thee.

**23** Diverse weights are an abomination before the Lord: a deceitful balance is not good.

**24** The steps of man are guided by the Lord: but who is the man that can understand his own way?

**25** It is ruin to a man to devour holy ones, and after vows to retract.

**26** A wise king scattereth the wicked, and bringeth over them the wheel.

**27** The spirit of a man is the lamp of the Lord, which searcheth all the hidden things of the bowels.

**28** Mercy and truth preserve the king, and his throne is strengthened by clemency.

**29** The joy of young men is their strength: and the dignity of old men, their grey hairs.

**30** The blueness of a wound shall wipe away evils: and stripes in the more inward parts of the belly.