**CHAPTER** **3**

*The happiness of the just: and the unhappiness of the wicked.*

**1** But the souls of the just are in the hand of God, and the torment of death shall not touch them.

**2** In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die: and their departure was taken for misery:

**3** And their going away from us, for utter destruction: but they are in peace.

**4** And though in the sight of men they suffered torments, their hope is full of immortality.

**5** Afflicted in few things, in many they shall be well rewarded: because God hath tried them, and found them worthy of himself.

**6** As gold in the furnace he hath proved them, and as a victim of a holocaust he hath received them, and in time there shall be respect had to them.

**7** The just shall shine, and shall run to and fro like sparks among the reeds.

**8** They shall judge nations, and rule over people, and their Lord shall reign for ever.

**9** They that trust in him, shall understand the truth: and they that are faithful in love shall rest in him: for grace and peace is to his elect.

**10** But the wicked shall be punished according to their own devices: who have neglected the just, and have revolted from the Lord.

**11** For he that rejecteth wisdom, and discipline, is unhappy: and their hope is vain, and their labours without fruit, and their works unprofitable.

**12** Their wives are foolish, and their children wicked.

**13** Their offspring is cursed: for happy is the barren: and the undefiled, that hath not known bed in sin: she shall have fruit in the visitation of holy souls.

**14** And the eunuch, that hath not wrought iniquity with his hands, nor thought wicked things against God: for the precious gift of faith shall be given to him, and a most acceptable lot in the temple of God.

**15** For the fruit of good labours is glorious, and the root of wisdom never faileth.

**16** But the children of adulterers shall not come to perfection, and the seed of the unlawful bed shall be rooted out.

**17** And if they live long, they shall be nothing regarded, and their last old age shall be without honour.

**18** And if they die quickly, they shall have no hope, nor speech of comfort in the day of trial.

**19** For dreadful are the ends of a wicked race.