

¹إِزِمْ خُبْرَكَ عَلَى وَجْهِ الْمِيَاهِ فَإِنَّكَ تَجِدُهُ بَعْدَ أَيَّامٍ كَثِيرَةٍ.²أَعْطِ تَصِيْبًا لِسَبْعَةٍ وَلِثَمَانِيَةٍ أَيْضًا، لِأَنَّكَ لَسْتَ تَعْلَمُ أَيَّ سَرٍّ يَكُونُ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ.³إِذَا امْتَلَأَتِ السُّحُبُ مَطَرًا تُرْفِقُهُ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ. وَإِذَا وَقَعَتِ الشَّجَرَةُ تَحَوُّ الْجُتُوبُ أَوْ تَحَوُّ السَّمَالُ فِي الْمَوْضِعِ حَيْثُ تَقَعُ الشَّجَرَةُ هُنَاكَ تَكُونُ.⁴مَنْ يَرْصُدُ الرِّيحَ لَا يَزْرَعُ، وَمَنْ يُرَاقِبُ السُّحُبَ لَا يَحْصُدُ.⁵كَمَا أَنَّكَ لَسْتَ تَعْلَمُ مَا هِيَ طَرِيقُ الرِّيحِ، وَلَا كَيْفَ الْعِطَامُ فِي بَطْنِ الْخُبْلَى، كَذَلِكَ لَا تَعْلَمُ أَعْمَالُ اللَّهِ الَّذِي يَصْنَعُ الْجَمِيعَ.⁶فِي الصَّبَاحِ ارْزَعْ زَرْعَكَ وَفِي الْمَسَاءِ لَا تَرْخَ يَدَكَ، لِأَنَّكَ لَا تَعْلَمُ أَيُّهُمَا يَنْمُو هَذَا أَوْ ذَاكَ، أَوْ أَنْ يَكُونَ كِلَاهُمَا خَيْرَيْنِ سَوَاءً.⁷الْشُّورُ خُلُو، وَخَيْرٌ لِلْعَيْنَيْنِ أَنْ تَنْطُرَا السَّمْسَ.⁸لَئِنْ عَاشَ الْإِنْسَانُ سِنِينَ كَثِيرَةً فَلْيَفْرَحْ فِيهَا كُلِّهَا، وَلْيَذْكُرْ أَيَّامَ الظُّلْمَةِ لِأَنَّهَا تَكُونُ كَثِيرَةً. كُلُّ مَا يَأْنِي بَاطِلٌ.⁹إِفْرَحْ أَيُّهَا السَّابُّ فِي حَدَاتِكَ، وَلْيَسُرَّكَ قَلْبُكَ فِي أَيَّامِ سَبَابِكَ وَاسْلُكْ فِي طَرِيقِ قَلْبِكَ وَبِمَرَأَى عَيْنَيْكَ، وَاعْلَمْ أَنَّ عَلَى هَذِهِ الْأُمُورِ كُلِّهَا يَأْتِي بِكَ اللَّهُ إِلَى الدَّيْنُونَةِ.¹⁰فَانْرِعِ الْعَمَّ مِنْ قَلْبِكَ، وَأَبْعِدِ الشَّرَّ عَنْ لَحْمِكَ، لِأَنَّ الْحَدَاثَةَ وَالشَّبَابَ بَاطِلَانِ.

¹Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.²Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth.³If the clouds be full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth: and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be.⁴He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap.⁵As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all.⁶In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good.⁷Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun:⁸But if a man live many years, and rejoice in them all; yet let him remember the days of darkness; for they shall be many. All that cometh is vanity.⁹Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.¹⁰Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth are vanity.