

¹ Surely there is a vein for the silver, and a place for gold where they fine it. ² Iron is taken out of the earth, and brass is molten out of the stone. ³ He setteth an end to darkness, and searcheth out all perfection: the stones of darkness, and the shadow of death. ⁴ The flood breaketh out from the inhabitant; even the waters forgotten of the foot: they are dried up, they are gone away from men. ⁵ As for the earth, out of it cometh bread: and under it is turned up as it were fire. ⁶ The stones of it are the place of sapphires: and it hath dust of gold. ⁷ There is a path which no fowl knoweth, and which the vulture's eye hath not seen: ⁸ The lion's whelps have not trodden it, nor the fierce lion passed by it. ⁹ He putteth forth his hand upon the rock; he overturneth the mountains by the roots. ¹⁰ He cutteth out rivers among the rocks; and his eye seeth every precious thing. ¹¹ He bindeth the floods from overflowing; and the thing that is hid bringeth he forth to light. ¹² But where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding? ¹³ Man knoweth not the price thereof; neither is it found in the land of the living. ¹⁴ The depth saith, It is not in me: and the sea saith, It is not with me. ¹⁵ It cannot be gotten for gold, neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof. ¹⁶ It cannot be valued with the gold of Ophir, with the precious onyx, or the sapphire. ¹⁷ The gold and the crystal cannot equal it: and the exchange of it shall not be for jewels of fine gold. ¹⁸ No mention shall be made of coral, or of pearls: for the price of wisdom is above rubies. ¹⁹ The

topaz of Ethiopia shall not equal it, neither shall it be valued with pure gold.²⁰ Whence then cometh wisdom? and where is the place of understanding?²¹ Seeing it is hid from the eyes of all living, and kept close from the fowls of the air.²² Destruction and death say, We have heard the fame thereof with our ears.²³ God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof.²⁴ For he looketh to the ends of the earth, and seeth under the whole heaven;²⁵ To make the weight for the winds; and he weigheth the waters by measure.²⁶ When he made a decree for the rain, and a way for the lightning of the thunder:²⁷ Then did he see it, and declare it; he prepared it, yea, and searched it out.²⁸ And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.