

THE BOOK OF SIRACH

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach Prologue

The Prologue of the Wisdom of Jesus (Joshua) the son of Sirach (200BC)

Whereas many and great things have been delivered unto us by the law and the prophets, and by others that have followed their steps, for which things Israel ought to be commended for learning and wisdom; and whereof not only the readers must needs become skillful themselves, but also they that desire to learn be able to profit them which are without, both by speaking and writing. My grandfather Jesus, when he had much given himself to the reading of the law, and the prophets, and other books of our fathers, and had gotten therein good judgment, was drawn on also himself to write something pertaining to learning and wisdom; to the intent that those which are desirous to learn, and are added to these things, might profit much more in living according to the law.

Wherefore let me entreat you to read it with favor and attention, and to pardon us, wherein we may seem to come short of some words, which we have labored to interpret. For the same things uttered in Hebrew, and translated into another tongue, have not the same force in them; and not only these things, but the law itself, and the prophets, and the rest of the books, have no small difference, when they are spoken in their own language.

For in the eight and thirtieth year coming to Egypt, when Euegates was king, and continuing there some time, I found a book of no small learning; therefore I thought it most necessary for me to bestow some diligence and travail to interpret it; using great watchfulness and skill in that space to bring the book to an end, and set it forth for them also, which in a strange country are willing to learn, being prepared before in manners to live after the law.

(Euergetes was 5th Ptolomy, which honored Jerusalem, not the Egyptian gods, Apion 2.5)
(Euergetes followed by son, Ptolemy Philometer & wife Cleopatra & Jews Onias and Dositheus)

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach Chapter 1

- 1 All Wisdom comes from the Lord, and is with Him for ever.
- 2 Who can number the sand of the sea, and the drops of rain, and the days of eternity?
- 3 Who can find out the height of heaven, and the breadth of the earth, and the deep, and Wisdom?
- 4 Wisdom has been created before all things, and the understanding of prudence from everlasting.
- 5 The word of God Most High is the fountain of Wisdom; and Her ways are everlasting commandments.
- 6 To whom has the root of Wisdom been revealed? Or who has known Her wise counsels?
- 7 Unto whom has the knowledge of Wisdom been made manifest? And who has understood Her great experience?
- 8 There is one wise and greatly to be feared, the Lord sitting upon His throne.

9 He created Her, and saw Her, and numbered Her, and poured Her out upon all His works.

10 She is with all flesh according to His gift, and He has given Her to them that love Him.

11 The fear of the Lord is honor, and glory, and gladness, and a crown of rejoicing.

12 The fear of the Lord makes a merry heart, and gives joy, and gladness, and long life.

13 Whoso fears the Lord, it shall go well with him at the last, and he shall find favor in the day of his death.

14 To fear the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom, and it was created with the faithful in the womb.

15 She has built an everlasting foundation with men, and She shall continue with their seed.

16 To fear the Lord is the fullness of Wisdom, and fills men with Her fruits.

17 She fills all their house with things desirable, and the garners with Her increase.

18 The fear of the Lord is a crown of Wisdom, making peace and perfect health to flourish; both which are gifts of God; and it enlarges their rejoicing that love him.

19 Wisdom rains down skill and knowledge of understanding standing, and exalts them to honor that hold Her fast.

20 The root of Wisdom is to fear the Lord, and the branches thereof are long life.

21 The fear of the Lord drives away sins; and where it is present, it turns away wrath.

22 A furious man cannot be justified, for the sway of his fury shall be his destruction.

23 A patient man will bear for a time, and afterward joy shall spring up unto him.

24 He will hide his words for a time, and the lips of many shall declare His Wisdom.

25 The parables of knowledge are in the treasures of Wisdom; but godliness is an abomination to a sinner.

26 If thou desire Wisdom, keep the commandments, and the Lord shall give Her unto thee.

27 For the fear of the Lord is Wisdom and instruction; and faith and meekness are His delight.

28 Distrust not the fear of the Lord when thou are poor; and come not to Him with a double heart.

29 Be not a hypocrite in the sight of men, and take good heed what thou speak.

30 Exalt not thyself, lest thou fall, and bring dishonor upon thy soul, and so God discover thy secrets, and cast thee down in the midst of the congregation, because thou came not in truth to the fear of the Lord, but thy heart is full of deceit.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach
Chapter 2

- 1 My son, if thou come to serve the Lord, prepare thy soul for temptation.
- 2 Set thy heart aright and constantly endure, and make not haste in time of trouble.
- 3 Cleave unto him, and depart not away, that thou may be increased at thy last end,
- 4 Whatsoever is brought upon thee take cheerfully, and be patient when thou are changed to low estate.
- 5 For gold is tried in the fire, and acceptable men in the furnace of adversity.
- 6 Believe in Him, and He will help thee; order thy way aright, and trust in Him.
- 7 Ye that fear the Lord, wait for His mercy; and go not aside, lest ye fall.
- 8 Ye that fear the Lord, believe Him, and your reward shall not fail.
- 9 Ye that fear the Lord, hope for good, and for everlasting joy and mercy.
- 10 Look at the generations of old, and see; did ever any trust in the Lord, and was confounded? Or did any abide in His fear, and was forsaken? Or whom did He ever despise, that called upon Him?
- 11 For the Lord is full of compassion and mercy, longsuffering, and very pitiful, and forgives sins, and saves in time of affliction.
- 12 Woe be to fearful hearts and faint hands, and the sinner that goes two ways.
- 13 Woe to him that is fainthearted! For he believes not; therefore shall he not be defended.
- 14 Woe unto you that have lost patience! And what will ye do when the Lord shall visit you?
- 15 They that fear the Lord will not disobey His Word; and they that love Him will keep His ways.
- 16 They that fear the Lord will seek that which is well pleasing unto Him; and they that love Him shall be filled with the Law.
- 17 They that fear the Lord will prepare their hearts, and humble their souls in His sight.
- 18 Saying; We will not fall into the hands of the Lord, and not into the hands of men; for as His majesty is, so is His mercy.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach
Chapter 3

- 1 Hear me your father, O children, and do thereafter, that you may be safe.
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2 For the Lord has given the father honor over the children, and has confirmed the authority of the mother over the sons.

3 Whoso honors his father makes an atonement for his sins.

4 And he that honors his mother is as one that lays up treasure.

5 Whoso honors his father shall have joy of his own children; and when he makes his prayer, he shall be heard.

6 He that honors his father shall have a long life; and he that is obedient to the Lord shall be a comfort to his mother.

7 He that fears the Lord will honor his father, and will do service unto his parents, as to his masters.

8 Honor thy father and mother both in word and deed, that a blessing may come upon thee from them.

9 For the blessing of the father establishes the houses of children; but the curse of the mother roots out foundations.

10 Glorify not in the dishonor of thy father; for thy father's dishonor is no glory unto thee.

11 For the glory of a man is from the honor of his father; and a mother in dishonor is a reproach to the children.

12 My son, help thy father in his age, and grieve him not as long as he lives.

13 And if his understanding fail, have patience with him; and despise him not when thou art in thy full strength.

14 For the relieving of thy father shall not be forgotten; and instead of sins it shall be added to build thee up.

15 In the day of thine affliction it shall be remembered; thy sins also shall melt away, as the ice in the fair warm weather.

16 He that forsakes his father is a blasphemer; and he that angers his mother is cursed; of God.

17 My son, go on with thy business in meekness; so shall thou be beloved of him that is approved.

18 The greater thou art, the more humble thyself, and thou shalt find favor before the Lord.

19 Many are in high place, and of renown; but mysteries are revealed unto the meek.

20 For the power of the Lord is great, and He is honored of the lowly.

21 Seek not out things that are too hard for thee, neither search the things that are above thy strength.

22 But what is commanded thee, think thereupon with reverence, for it is not needful for thee to see with thine own eyes the things that are in secret.

23 Be not curious in unnecessary matters; for more things are showed unto thee than men understand.

24 For many are deceived by their own vain opinion; and an evil suspicion has overthrown their judgment.

25 Without eyes thou shall want light; profess not the knowledge therefore that thou has not.

26 A stubborn heart shall fare evil at the last; and he that loves danger shall perish therein.

27 An obstinate heart shall be laden with sorrows; and the wicked man shall heap sin upon sin.

28 In the punishment of the proud there is no remedy; for the plant of wickedness has taken root in him.

29 The heart of the prudent will understand a parable; and an attentive ear is the desire of a wise man.

30 Water will quench a flaming fire; and alms makes an atonement for sins.

31 And he that requites good turns is mindful of that which may come hereafter; and when he falls he shall find a stay.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach Chapter 4

1 My son, defraud not the poor of his living, and make not the needy eyes to wait long.

2 Make not a hungry soul sorrowful; neither provoke a man in his distress.

3 Add not more trouble to a heart that is vexed; and defer not to give to him that is in need.

4 Reject not the supplication of the afflicted; neither turn away thy face from a poor man.

5 Turn not away thine eye from the needy, and give him none occasion to curse thee.

6 For if he curse thee in the bitterness of his soul, his prayer shall be heard of Him that made him.

7 Get thyself the love of the congregation, and bow thy head to a great man.

8 Let it not grieve thee to bow down thine ear to the poor, and give him a friendly answer with meekness.

9 Deliver him that suffers wrong from the hand of the oppressor; and be not fainthearted when thou sits in judgment.

10 Be as a father unto the fatherless, and instead of a husband unto their mother; so shall thou be as the son of the Most High, and He shall love thee more than thy mother does.

11 Wisdom exalts Her children, and lays hold of them that seek Her.

12 He that loves Her loves life; and they that seek to Her early shall be filled with joy.

13 He that holds Her fast shall inherit glory; and wheresoever She enters, the Lord will bless.

14 They that serve Her shall minister to the Holy One; and them that love Her the Lord does love.

15 Whoso gives ear unto Her shall judge the nations; and he that attends to Her shall dwell securely.

16 If a man commit himself unto Her, he shall inherit Her, and his generation shall hold Her in possession.

17 For at the first She will walk with him by crooked ways, and bring fear and dread upon him, and torment him with Her discipline, until She may trust his soul, and try him by Her laws.

18 Then will She return the straight way unto him, and comfort him, and show him Her secrets.

19 But if he go wrong, She will forsake him, and give him over to his own ruin.

20 Observe the opportunity, and beware of evil; and be not ashamed when it concerns thy soul.

21 For there is a shame that brings sin; and there is a shame which is glory and grace.

22 Accept no person against thy soul, and let not the reverence of any man cause thee to fall.

23 And refrain not to speak, when there is occasion to do good, and hide not thy Wisdom in Her beauty.

24 For by speech Wisdom shall be known; and learning by the word of the tongue.

25 In no wise speak against the truth; but be abashed of the error of thine ignorance.

26 Be not ashamed to confess thy sins, and force not the course of the river.
(stand not against the stream)

27 Make not thyself an underling to a foolish man; neither accept the person of the mighty.

28 Strive for the truth unto death, and the Lord shall fight for thee.

29 Be not hasty (boastful) in thy tongue, and in thy deeds slack and remiss (negligent).

30 Be not as a lion in thy house, for frantic among thy servants.

31 Let not thine hand be stretched out to receive, and shut when thou should repay.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach
Chapter 5

1 Set thy heart upon thy goods; and say not; I have enough for my life.

2 Follow not thine own mind and thy strength, to walk in the ways of thy heart.

3 And say not; Who shall control me for my works? For the Lord will surely revenge my pride.

4 Say not; I have sinned, and what harm has happened unto me? For the Lord is longsuffering, he will in no wise let thee go.

5 Concerning propitiation (forgiveness), be not without fear to add sin unto sin.

6 And say not; His mercy is great; He will be pacified for the multitude of my sins; for mercy and wrath come from Him, and His indignation rests upon sinners.

7 Make no tarrying to turn to the Lord, and put not off from day to day; for suddenly shall the wrath of the Lord come forth, and in thy security thou shall be destroyed, and perish in the day of vengeance.

8 Set not thine heart upon goods unjustly gotten, for they shall not profit thee in the day of calamity.

9 Winnow not with every wind, and go not into every way; for so does the sinner that has a double tongue.

10 Be steadfast in thy understanding; and let thy word be the same.

11 Be swift to hear; and let thy life be sincere; and with patience give answer.

12 If thou has understanding answer thy neighbor; if not, lay thy hand upon thy mouth.

13 Honor and shame is in talk; and the tongue of a man is his fall.

14 Be not called a whisperer, and lie not in wait with thy tongue; for a foul shame is upon the thief, and an evil condemnation upon the double tongue.

15 Be not ignorant of any thing in a great matter or small.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach
Chapter 6

1 Instead of a friend become not an enemy; for thou shall inherit an ill name, shame, and reproach; even so shall a sinner that has a double tongue.

2 Extol (admire) not thyself in the counsel of thine own heart; that thy soul be not torn in pieces as a bull straying alone.

3 Thou shalt eat up thy leaves, and lose thy fruit, and leave thyself as a dry tree.

4 A wicked soul shall destroy him that has it, and shall make him to be laughed to scorn of his enemies.

5 Sweet language will multiply friends; and a fair speaking tongue will increase kind greetings.

6 Be at peace with many; nevertheless have but one counselor of a thousand.

7 If thou would get a friend, prove him first and be not hasty to credit (trust) him.

8 For some man is a friend for his own occasion, and will not abide in the day of thy trouble.

9 And there is a friend, who being turned to enmity (anger) and strife, will discover thy reproach.

10 Again, some friend is a companion at the table, and will not continue in the day of thy affliction.

11 But in thy prosperity he will be as thyself, and will be bold over thy servants.

12 If thou be brought low, he will be against thee, and will hide himself from thy face.

13 Separate thyself from thine enemies, and take heed of thy friends.

14 A faithful friend is a strong defense; and he that has found such a one has found a treasure.

15 Nothing does countervail a faithful friend, and his excellency is invaluable.

16 A faithful friend is the medicine of life; and they that fear the Lord shall find Him.

17 Whoso fears the Lord shall direct his friendship aright; for as he is, so shall his neighbor be also.

18 My son, gather instruction from thy youth up; so shall thou find Wisdom till thine old age.

19 Come unto Her as one that plows and sows, and wait for Her good fruits; for thou shall not toil much in laboring about Her, but thou shall eat of Her fruits right soon.

20 She is very unpleasant to the unlearned; he that is without understanding will not remain with Her.

21 She will lie upon him as a mighty stone of trial; and he will cast Her from him ere it be long.

22 For or Wisdom is according to Her name, and She is not manifest unto many.

23 Give ear, my son, receive my advice, and refuse not my counsel.

24 And put thy feet into Her fetters, and thy neck into Her chain.

25 Bow down thy shoulder, and bear Her, and be not grieved with Her bonds.

26 Come unto Her with thy whole heart, and keep Her ways with all thy power.

27 Search and seek, and She shall be made known unto thee; and when thou has got hold of Her, let Her not go.

28 For at the last thou shall find Her rest, and that shall be turned to thy joy.

29 Then shall Her fetters be a strong defense for thee, and Her chains a robe of glory.

30 For there is a golden ornament upon Her, and Her bands are purple lace.

31 Thou shall put Her on as a robe of honor, and shall put Her about thee as a crown of joy.

32 My son, if thou will, thou shall be taught; and if thou will apply thy mind, thou shall be prudent.

33 If thou love to hear, thou shall receive understanding, and if thou bow thine ear, thou shall be wise.

34 Stand in the multitude of the elders; and cleave unto him that is wise.

35 Be willing to hear every godly discourse; and let not the parables of understanding escape thee.

36 And if thou sees a man of understanding, get thee betimes (often) unto him, and let thy foot wear the steps of his door.

37 Let thy mind be upon the ordinances of the Lord, and meditate continually in His commandments; He shall establish thine heart, and give thee Wisdom at thine own desire.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach
Chapter 7

1 Do no evil, so shall no harm come unto thee.

2 Depart from the unjust, and iniquity shall turn away from thee.

S My son, sow not upon the furrows of unrighteousness, and thou shall not reap them sevenfold.

4 Seek not of the Lord preeminence, neither of the king the seat of honor.

5 Justify not thyself before the Lord; and boast not of thy Wisdom before the king.

- 6 Seek not to be judge, being not able to take away iniquity; lest at any time thou fear the person of the mighty, a stumbling-block in the way of thy uprightness.
- 7 Offend not against the multitude of a city, and then thou shall not cast thyself down among the people.
- 8 Bind not one sin upon another; for in one thou shall not be unpunished.
- 9 Say not; God will look upon the multitude of my oblations, and when I offer to the Most High God, He will accept it.
- 10 Be not fainthearted when thou make thy prayer, and neglect not to give alms.
- 11 Laugh no man to scorn in the bitterness of his soul; for there is one which humbles and exalts.
- 12 Devise not a lie against thy brother; neither do the like to thy friend.
- 13 Use not to make any manner of lie; for the custom thereof is not good.
- 14 Use not many words in a multitude of elders, and make not much babbling when thou pray.
- 15 Hate not laborious work, neither husbandry, which the Most High has ordained.
- 16 Number not thyself among the multitude of sinners, but remember that wrath will not tarry long.
- 17 Humble thyself greatly; for the vengeance of the ungodly is fire and worms.
- 18 Change not a friend for any good by no means; neither a faithful brother for the gold of Ophir.
- 19 Forego not a wise man and good woman; for her grace is above gold.
- 20 Whereas thy servant works truly, entreat him not evil, nor the hireling that bestows himself wholly for thee.
- 21 Let thy soul love a good servant, and defraud him not of liberty.
- 22 Has thou cattle? Have an eye to them; and if they be profit, keep them with thee.
- 23 Has thou children? Instruct them, and bow down their neck from their youth.
- 24 Hast thou daughters? Have a care of their body, and show not thyself cheerful toward them.
- 25 Marry thy daughter, and so shall thou have performed a weighty matter; but give her to a man of understanding.
- 26 Has thou a wife after thy mind? Forsake her not; but give not thyself over to a light woman.
- 27 Honor thy father with thy whole heart, and forget not the sorrows of thy mother.

28 Remember that thou was begotten of them; and how can thou recompense them things they have done for thee?

29 Fear the Lord with all thy soul, and reverence His priests.

30 Love Him that made thee with all thy strength, and forsake not His ministers.

31 Fear the Lord, and honor the priest; and give Him His portion, as it is commanded thee; the firstfruits, and the trespass offering, the gift of the shoulders, and the sacrifice of sanctification, and the firstfruits of holy things.

32 And stretch thine hand unto the poor, that thy blessing may be perfected.

33 A gift has grace in the sight of every man living; and for the dead detain it not.

34 Fail not to be with them that weep, and mourn with them that mourn.

35 Be not slow to visit the sick; for that shall make thee to be beloved.

36 Whatsoever thou take in hand, remember the end, and thou shall never do amiss.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach
Chapter 8

1 Strive not with a mighty man lest thou fall into his hands.

2 Be not at variance with a rich man, lest he overweigh (overprice) thee; for gold has destroyed many, and perverted the hearts of kings.

3 Strive not with a man that is full of tongue, and heap not wood on his fire.

4 Jest not with a rude man, lest thy ancestors be disgraced.

5 Reproach not a man that turns from sin, but remember that we are all worthy of punishment.

6 Dishonor not a man in his old age; for even some of us wax old.

7 Rejoice not over thy greatest enemy being dead, but remember that we die all.

8 Despise not the discourse of the wise, but acquaint thyself with their proverbs; for of them thou shall learn instruction, and how to serve great men with ease.

9 Miss not the discourse of the elders; for they also learned of their fathers; and of them thou shall learn understanding, and to give answer as need require.

10 Kindle not the coals of a sinner, lest thou be burnt with the flame of his fire.

11 Rise not up in anger at the presence of an injurious person, lest he lie in wait to entrap thee in thy words.

- 12 Lend not unto him that is mightier than thyself; for if thou lends him, count it but lost.
- 13 Be not surety above thy power; for if thou be surety, take care to pay it.
- 14 Go not to law with a judge; for they will judge for him according to his honor.
- 15 Travel not by the way with a bold fellow, lest he become grievous unto thee; for he will do according to his own will, and thou shall perish with him through his folly.
- 16 Strive not with an angry man, and go not with him into a solitary place; for blood is as nothing in his sight, and where there is no help, he will overthrow thee.
- 17 Consult not with a fool; for he cannot keep counsel.
- 18 Do no secret thing before a stranger; for thou knows not what he will bring forth.
- 19 Open not thine heart to every man, lest he requite (revenge) thee with a shrewd turn.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach
Chapter 9

- 1 Be not jealous of the wife of thy bosom, and teach her not an evil lesson against thyself.
- 2 Give not thy soul unto a woman to set her foot upon thy substance.
- 3 Meet not with a harlot, lest thou fall into her snares.
- 4 Use not much the company of a woman that is a singer, lest thou be taken with her attempts.
- 5 Gaze not on a maid, that thou fall not by those things that are precious in her.
- 6 Give not thy soul unto harlots, that thou lose not thine inheritance.
- 7 Look not round about thee in the streets of the city, neither wander thou in the solitary place thereof.
- 8 Turn away thine eye from a beautiful woman, and look not upon another's beauty; for many have been deceived by the beauty of a woman; for herewith love is kindled as a fire.
- 9 Sit not at all with another man's wife, nor sit down with her in thine arms, and spend not thy money with her at the wine; lest thine heart incline unto her, and so through thy desire thou fall into destruction.
- 10 Forsake not an old friend; for the new is not his comparable to him; a new friend is as new wine; when it is old, thou shall drink it with pleasure.
- 11 Envy not the glory of a sinner; for thou knows not what shall be his end.

12 Delight not in the thing that the ungodly have pleasure in; but remember they shall not go unpunished unto their grave.

13 Keep thee far from the man that has power to kill; so shall thou not doubt the fear of death; and if thou come unto him, make no fault, lest he take away thy life presently; remember that thou goes in the midst of snares, and that thou walks upon the battlements of the city.

14 As near as thou can, guess at thy neighbor, and consult with the wise.

15 Let thy walk be with the wise, and all thy communication in the Law of the Most High.

16 And let just men eat and drink with thee and let thy glorying be in the fear of the Lord.

17 For the handed of the artificer the work shall be commended; and the wise ruler of the people for his speech.

18 A man of an ill tongue is dangerous in his city; and he that is rash in his talk shall be hated.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach Chapter 10

1 A wise judge will instructed his people; and the government of a prudent man is well ordered.

2 As the judge of the people is himself, so are his officers; and what manner of man the ruler of the city is, such are all they that dwell therein.

3 An unwise king destroys his people; but through the prudence of them which are in authority the city shall be inhabited.

4 The power of the earth is in the hand of the Lord, and in due time He will set over it one that is profitable.

5 In the hand of God is the prosperity of man; and upon the person of the scribe shall He lay His honor.

6 Bear not hatred to thy neighbor for every wrong; and do nothing at all by injurious practices.

7 Pride is hateful before God and man; and by both does one commit iniquity.

8 Because of unrighteous dealings, injuries, and riches by deceit, the kingdom is translated from one people to another.

9 Why is earth and ashes proud? There is not a more wicked thing than a covetous man; for such a one sets his own soul to sale; because while he lives he casts away his bowels.

10 The physician cuts off a long disease; and he that is to day a king to morrow shall die.

11 For when a man is dead, he shall inherit creeping things, beasts, and worms.

12 The beginning of pride is when one departs from God, and his heart is turned away from his Maker.

13 For pride is the beginning of sin, and he that has it shall pour out abomination; and therefore the Lord brought upon them strange calamities, and overthrew them utterly.

14 The Lord has cast down the thrones of proud princes, and set up the meek in their stead.

15 The Lord has plucked up the roots of the proud nations, and planted the lowly in their place.

16 The Lord overthrew countries of the heathen, and destroyed them to the foundations of the earth.

17 He took some of them away, and destroyed them, and has made their memorial to cease from the earth.

18 Pride was not made for men, nor furious anger for them that are born of women.

19 They that fear the Lord are a sure seed, and they that love Him an honorable plant; they that regard not the Law are a dishonorable seed; they that transgress the commandments are a deceivable seed.

20 Among brethren he that is chief is honorable; so are they that fear the Lord in His eyes.

21 The fear of the Lord goes before the obtaining of authority; but roughness and pride is the losing thereof.

22 Whether he be rich, noble, or poor, their glory is the fear of the Lord.

23 It is not meet to despise the poor man that has understanding; neither is it convenient to magnify a sinful man.

24 Great men, and judges, and potentates, shall be honored; yet there is none of them greater than he that fears the Lord.

25 Unto the servant that is wise shall they that are free to do service; and he that has knowledge will not grudge when he is reformed.

26 Be not over-wise in doing thy business; and boast not thyself in the time of thy distress.

27 Better is he that labors, and abounds in all things, than he that boasts himself, and wants bread.

28 My son, glorify thy soul in meekness, and give it honor according to the dignity thereof.

29 Who will justify him that sins against his own soul? And who will honor him that dishonors his own life?

30 The poor man is honored for his skill, and the rich man is honored for his riches.

31 He that is honored in poverty, how much more in riches? And he that is dishonorable in riches, how much more in poverty?

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach
Chapter 11

1 Wisdom lifts up the head of him that is of low degree, and makes him to sit among great men.

2 Commend not a man for his beauty; neither abhor a man for his outward appearance.

3 The bee is little among such as fly; but her fruit is the chief of sweet things.

4 Boast not of thy clothing and raiment, and exalt not thyself in the day of honor; for the works of the Lord are wonderful, and His works among men hidden.

5 Many kings have sat down upon the ground; and One that was never thought of has worn the crown.

6 Many mighty men have been greatly disgraced; and the honorable delivered into other men's hands.

7 Blame not before thou has examined the truth; understand first, then rebuke.

8 Answer not before thou has heard the cause; neither interrupt men in the midst of their talk.

9 Strive not in a matter that concerns thee not; and sit not in judgment with sinners.

10 My son, meddle not with many matters; for if thou meddle much, thou shall not be innocent; and if thou follow after, thou shall not obtain, neither shall thou escape by fleeing.

11 There is one that labors and takes pains, and makes haste, and is so much the more behind.

12 Again, there is another that is slow, and has need of help, wanting ability, and full of poverty; yet the eye of the Lord looked upon him for good, and set him up from his low estate.

13 And lifted up his head from misery; so that many that saw from him is peace over all.

14 Prosperity and adversity, life and death, poverty and riches, come of the Lord.

15 Wisdom, knowledge, and understanding of the Law, are of the Lord; love, and the way of good works, are from Him.

16 Error and darkness had their beginning together with sinners; and evil shall wax old with them that glory therein.

17 The gift of the Lord remains with the ungodly, and His favor brings prosperity for ever.

18 There is that wax rich by his wariness and pinching, and this is the portion of his reward.

19 Whereas he said; I have found rest, and now will eat continually of my goods; and yet he knows not what time shall come upon him, that he must leave those things to others, and die.

20 Be steadfast in thy Covenant, and be conversant therein, and wax old in thy work.

21 Marvel at the works of sinners; but trust in the Lord, and abide in thy labor; for it is an easy thing in the sight of the Lord on the sudden to make a poor man rich.

22 The blessing of the Lord is in the reward of the godly, and suddenly He makes his blessing flourish.

23 Say not; What profit is there of my service? And what good things shall I have hereafter?

24 Again, say not; I have enough, and possess many things, and what evil shall I have hereafter?

25 In the day of prosperity there is a forgetfulness of affliction; and in the day of affliction there is no more remembrance of prosperity.

26 For it is an easy thing unto the Lord in the day of death to reward a man according to his ways.

27 The affliction of an hour makes a man forget pleasure; and in his end his deeds shall be discovered.

28 Judge none blessed before his death; for a man shall be known in his children.

29 Bring not every man into thy house; for the deceitful man has many trains.

30 Like as a partridge taken and kept in a cage, so is the heart of the proud; and like as a spy, watches he for thy fall.

31 For he lies in wait, and turns good into evil, and in things worthy of praise will lay blame upon thee.

32 Of a spark of fire a heap of coals is kindled; and a sinful man lays wait for blood.

33 Take heed of a mischievous man, for he works wickedness; lest he bring upon thee a perpetual blot.

34 Receive a stranger into thine house, and he will disturb thee, and turn thee out of thine own.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach Chapter 12

1 When thou wilt do good know to whom thou does it; so shall thou be thanked for thy benefits.

2 Do good to the godly man, and thou shall find a recompense; and if not from him, yet from the Most High.

3 There can no good come to him that is always occupied in evil, nor to him that gives no alms.

4 Give to the godly man, and help not a sinner.

5 Do well unto him that is lowly, but give not to the ungodly; hold back thy bread, and give it not unto him, lest he overmaster (attack) thee thereby; for thou shall receive twice as much evil for all the good thou shall have done unto him.

6 For the Most High hates sinners, and will repay vengeance unto the ungodly, and keeps them against the mighty day of their punishment.

7 Give to the good and help not the sinner.

8 A friend cannot be known in prosperity; and an enemy cannot be hidden in adversity.

9 In the prosperity of a man, enemies will be grieved; but in his adversity even a friend will depart.

10 Never trust thine enemy; for like as iron rusts, so is his wickedness.

11 Though he humble himself, and go crouching, yet take good heed and beware of him, and thou shall be unto him as if thou had wiped a looking glass, and thou shall know that his rust has not been altogether wiped away.

12 Set him not by thee, lest, when he has overthrown thee, he stand up in thy place; neither let him sit at thy right hand, lest he seek to take thy seat, and thou at the last remember My words, and be pricked therewith.

13 Who will pity a charmer that is bitten with a serpent, or any such as come nigh wild beasts?

14 So one that goes to a sinner, and is defiled with him in his sins, who will pity?

15 For a while he will abide with thee, but if thou begin to fall, he will not tarry.

16 An enemy speaks sweetly with his lips, but in his heart he imagines how to throw thee into a pit; he will weep with his eyes, but if he find opportunity, he will not be satisfied with blood.

17 If adversity come upon thee, thou shall find him there first; and though he pretend to help thee, yet shall he undermine thee.

18 He will shake his head, and clap his hands, and whisper much, and change his countenance.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach Chapter 13

1 He that touches pitch shall be defiled therewith; and he that fellowship with a proud man shall be like unto him.

2 Burden not thyself above thy power while thou lives; and have no fellowship with one that is mightier and richer than thyself; for how agree the kettle and the earthen pot together? For if the one be smitten against the other, it shall be broken.

3 The rich man has done wrong, and yet he threatens withal; the poor is wronged, and he must entreat (plead) also.

4 If thou be for his profit, he will use thee; but if thou have nothing, he will forsake thee.

5 If thou have any thing, he will live with thee; yea, he will make thee bare, and will not be sorry for it.

6 If he have need of thee, he will deceive thee, and will smile upon thee, and put thee in hope; he will speak thee fair, and say; What wants thou?

7 And he will shame thee by his meats, until he have drawn thee dry twice or thrice, and at the last he will laugh thee to scorn afterward, when he sees thee, he will forsake thee, and shake his head at thee.

8 Beware that thou be not deceived and brought down in thy jollity.

9 If thou be invited of a mighty man, withdraw thyself, and so much more will he invite thee.

10 Press thou not upon him, lest thou be put back; stand not far off, lest thou be forgotten.

11 Affect not to be made equal unto him in talk, and believe not his many words; for with much communication will he tempt thee, and smiling upon thee will get out thy secrets.

12 But cruelly he will lay up thy words, and will not spare to do thee hurt, and to put thee in prison.

13 Observe, and take good heed, for thou walks in peril of thy overthrowing; when thou hears these things, awake in thy sleep.

14 Love the Lord all thy life, and call upon Him for thy salvation.

15 Every beast loves his like, and every man loves his neighbor.

16 All flesh consorts according to kind, and a man will cleave to his like.

17 What fellowship has the wolf with the lamb? So the sinner with the godly.

18 What agreement is there between the hyena and a dog? And what piece between the rich and the poor?

19 As the wild ass is the lion's prey in the wilderness; so the rich eat up the poor.

20 As the proud hate humility; so does the rich abhor the poor.

21 A rich man beginning to fall is held up of his friends; but a poor man being down is thrust away by his friends.

22 When a rich man is fallen, he has many helpers; he speaks things not to be spoken, and yet men justify him; the poor man slipped, and yet they rebuked him too; he spoke wisely, and could have no place.

23 When a rich man speaks, every man holds his tongue, and, look, what he said, they extol it to the clouds; but if the poor man speak, they say; What fellow is this? And if he stumble, they will help to overthrow him.

24 Riches are good unto him that has no sin, and poverty is evil in the mouth of the ungodly.

25 The heart of a man changes his countenance, whether it be for good or evil; and a merry heart makes a cheerful countenance.

26 A cheerful countenance is a token of a heart that is in prosperity; and the finding out of parables is a wearisome labor of the mind.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach Chapter 14

1 Blessed is the man that has not slipped with his mouth, and is not pricked with the multitude of sins.

2 Blessed is he whose conscience has not condemned him, and who is not fallen from his hope in the Lord.

3 Riches are not comely for a niggard (selfish); and what should an envious man do with money?

4 He that gathers by defrauding his own soul gathers for others, that shall spend his goods riotously.

5 He that is evil to himself, to whom will he be good? He shall not take pleasure in his goods.

6 There is none worse than he that envies himself; and this is a recompense of his wickedness.

7 And if he does good, he does it unwillingly, and at the last he will declare his wickedness.

8 The envious man has a wicked eye; he turns away his face, and despises men,

9 The covetous man's eye is not satisfied with his portion; and the iniquity of the wicked dries up his soul.

10 The wicked eye envies his bread, and he is a niggard (selfish pounce greedily) at his table.

11 My son, according to thy ability do good to thyself; and give the Lord His due offering.

12 Remember that death will not be long in coming, and that the Covenant of the grave is not shown unto thee.

13 Do good to thy friend before thou die, and according to thy ability stretch out thy hand and give to him.

14 Defraud not thyself of the good day, and let not the part of a good desire overpass thee.

15 Shall thou not leave thy travails unto another? And thy labors to be divided by lot?

16 Give, and take, and sanctify thy soul; for there is no seeking of dainties in the grave.

17 All flesh waxes old as a garment; for the Covenant from the beginning is; Thou shalt die the death.

18 As of the green leaves on a thick tree, some fall, and some grow; so is the generation of flesh and blood, one comes to an end, and another is born.

19 Every work rots and consumes away, and the worker thereof shall go withal.

20 Blessed is the man that does meditate good things in Wisdom, and that reasons of holy things by his understanding.

21 He that considers Her ways in his heart shall also have understanding in Her secrets.

22 Go after Her as one that tracks, and lies in wait in Her ways.

23 He that pries in at Her windows shall also hearken at Her doors.

24 He that does lodge near Her house shall also fasten a pin in Her walls.

25 He shall pitch his tent nigh (close) unto Her, and shall lodge in a lodging where good things are.

26 He shall set his children under Her shelter, and shall lodge under Her branches.

27 By Her he shall be covered from heat, and in Her glory shall he dwell.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach Chapter 15

1 He that fears the Lord will do good, and he that has the knowledge of the Law shall obtain Her.

2 And as a mother shall She meet him, and receive him as a wife married to a virgin.

3 With the bread of understanding shall She feed him, and give him the water of Wisdom to drink.

4 He shall be stayed upon Her, and shall not be moved; and shall rely upon Her, and shall not be confounded.

5 She shall exalt him above his neighbors, and in the midst of the congregation shall She open his mouth.

6 He shall find joy and a crown of gladness, and She shall cause him to inherit an everlasting name.

7 But foolish men shall not attain unto Her, and sinners shall not see Her.

8 For She is far from pride, and men that are liars cannot remember Her.

9 Praise is not seemly in the mouth of a sinner, for it was not sent him of the Lord.

10 For praise shall be uttered in Wisdom, and the Lord will prosper it.

11 Say not thou; It is through the Lord that I fell away; for thou ought not to do the things that He hates.

12 Say not thou: He has caused me to err; for He has no need of the sinful man.

13 The Lord hates all abomination; and they that fear God love it not.

14 He himself made man from the beginning, and left him in the hand of His counsel.

15 If thou wilt, to keep the commandments, and to perform acceptable faithfulness.

16 He has set fire and water before thee; stretch forth thy hand unto whether thou wilt.

17 Before man is life and death; and whether him like, shall be given him,

18 For the Wisdom of the Lord is great, and He is mighty in power, and beholds all things.

19 And His eyes are upon them that fear Him, and He knows every work of man.

20 He has commanded no man to do wickedly, neither has He given any man license to sin.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach Chapter 16

1 Desire not a multitude of unprofitable children, neither delight in ungodly sons.

2 Though they multiply, rejoice not in them, except the fear of the Lord be with them.

3 Trust not thou in their life, neither respect their multitude; for the one that is just is better than a thousand; and better it is to die without children, than to have them that are ungodly.

4 For by one that has understanding shall the city be replenished; but the kindred of the wicked shall speedily become desolate.

5 Many such things have I seen with mine eyes, and mine ear has heard greater things than these.

6 In the congregation of the ungodly shall a fire is kindled; and in a rebellious nation wrath is set on fire.

7 He was not pacified toward the old giants, who fell away in the strength of their foolishness.

8 Neither spared He the place where Lot sojourned, but abhorred them for their pride.

9 He pitied not the people of perdition, who were taken away in their sins.

10 Nor the six hundred thousand footmen, who were gathered together in the hardness of their hearts.

11 And if there be one stiff-necked among the people, it is marvel if he escape unpunished; for mercy and wrath are with Him; He is mighty to forgive, and to pour out displeasure.

12 As His mercy is great, so is His correction also; He judges a man according to his works.

13 The sinner shall not escape with his spoils; and the patience of the godly shall not be frustrate.

14 Make way for every work of mercy; for every man shall find according to his works.

15 The Lord hardened Pharaoh, that he should not know Him, that His powerful works might be known to the world.

16 His mercy is manifest to every creature; and has separated His light from the darkness with an adamant (unwavering).

17 Say not thou; I will hide myself from the Lord; shall any remember me from above? I shall not be remembered among so many people; for what is my soul among such an infinite number of creatures?

18 Behold, the heaven, and the heaven of the heavens, the deep, and the earth, and all that therein is, shall be moved when He shall visit.

19 The mountains also and foundations of the earth be shaken with trembling, when the Lord looks upon them.

20 No heart can think upon these things worthily; and who is able to conceive His ways?

21 It is a tempest which no man can see; for the most part of His works are hid.

22 Who can declare the works of His justice? Or who can endure them? For His Covenant is afar off, and the trial of all things is in the end.

23 He that wants understanding will think upon vain things; and a foolish man erring imagines follies.

24 My son; hearken unto me, and learn knowledge, and mark my words with thy heart.

25 I will show forth doctrine in weight, and declare His knowledge exactly.

26 The works of the Lord are done in judgment from the beginning; and from the time He made them He disposed the parts thereof.

27 He garnished His works for ever, and in His hand are the chief of them unto all generations; they neither labor, nor are weary, nor cease from their works.

28 None of them hinders another, and they shall never disobey His word.

29 After this the Lord looked upon the earth, and filled it with His blessings.

30 With all manner of living things has He covered the face thereof; and they shall return into it again.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach Chapter 17

1 The Lord created man of the earth, and turned him into it again.

2 He gave them few days, and a short time, and power also over things therein.

3 He endued them with strength by themselves, and made them according to His image.

4 And put the fear of man upon all flesh, and gave them dominion over beasts and fowls.

5 They received the use of the five operations of the Lord, and in the sixth place He imparted them understanding, and in the seventh speech, an interpreter of the cognitions thereof.

6 Counsel, and a tongue, and eyes, ears, and a heart, gave He them to understand.

7 Withal He filled them with the knowledge of understanding, and showed them good and evil.

8 He set his eye upon their hearts, that He might show them the greatness of His works.

9 He gave them to glory in his marvelous acts for ever, that they might declare His works with understanding.

10 And the elect shall praise His Holy Name. (YHWH, Yahweh)

11 Beside this He gave them knowledge, and the Law of life for a heritage.

12 He made an everlasting Covenant with them, and showed them His judgments.

13 Their eyes saw the majesty of His glory, and their ears heard His glorious voice.

14 And He said unto them; Beware of all unrighteousness; and He gave every man commandment concerning his neighbor.

15 Their ways are ever before Him, and shall not be hid from His eyes.

16 Every man from his youth is given to evil; neither could they make to themselves fleshy hearts for stony.

17 For in the divisions of the nations of the whole earth He set a ruler over every people; but Israel is the Lord's portion.

18 Whom, being His firstborn, He nourishes with discipline, and giving him the light of His love does not forsake Him.

19 Therefore all their works are as the sun before Him, and His eyes are continually upon their ways.

20 None of their unrighteous deeds are hid from Him, but all their sins are before the Lord.

21 But the lord being gracious and knowing his workmanship, neither left nor forsook them, but spared them.

22 The alms of man is as a signet with Him, and He will keep the good deeds of man as the apple of the eye, and give repentance to his sons and daughters.

23 Afterwards He will rise up and reward them, and render their recompense upon their heads.

24 But unto them that repent, He granted them return, and comforted those that failed in patience.

25 Return unto the Lord, and forsake thy sins; make thy prayer before His face, and offend less.

26 Turn again to the Most High, and turn away from iniquity; for He will lead thee out of darkness into light of health, and hate thou abomination vehemently.

27 Who shall praise the Most High in the grave, instead of them which live and give thanks?

28 Thanksgiving perishes from the dead, as from one that is not; the living and sound in heart shall praise the Lord.

29 How great is the loving-kindness of the Lord our God, and His compassion unto such as turn unto Him in holiness!

30 For all things cannot be in men, because the son of man is not immortal.

31 What is brighter than the sun? Yet the light thereof fails; and flesh and blood will imagine evil.

32 He views the power of the height of heaven; and all men are but earth and ashes.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach
Chapter 18

- 1 He that lives for ever has created all things in general.
- 2 The Lord only is righteous, and there is none other but He.
- 3 Who governs the world with the palm of his hand, and all things obey His will; for He is the King of All, by His power dividing holy things among them from profane.
- 4 To whom has He given power to declare His works, and who shall find out His noble acts?
- 5 Who shall number the strength of His Majesty? And who shall also tell out His mercies?
- 6 As for the wondrous works of the Lord, there may nothing be taken from them, neither may any thing be put unto them, neither can the ground of them be found out.
- 7 When a man has done, then he begins, and when he leaves off, then he shall be doubtful.
- 8 What is man, and whereto serves he? What is his good, and what is his evil?
- 9 The number of man's days at the most are a hundred years.
- 10 As a drop of water unto the sea, and a gravel stone in comparison of the sand; so are a thousand years to the days of eternity.
- 11 Therefore is God patient with them, and pours forth His mercy upon them.
- 12 He saw and perceived their end to be evil; therefore He multiplied His compassion.
- 13 The mercy of man is toward his neighbor; but the mercy of the Lord is upon all flesh; He reproves, and nurtures, and teaches and brings again, as a shepherd his flock.
- 14 He has mercy on them that receive discipline, and that diligently seek after His Judgments.
- 15 My son, blemish not thy good deeds, neither use uncomfortable words when thou gives any thing.
- 16 Shall not the dew assuage the heat? So is a word better than a gift.
- 17 Lo, is not a word better than a gift? But both are with a gracious man.
- 18 A fool will upbraid churlishly, and a gift of the envious consumes the eyes.
- 19 Learn before thou speak, and use physick (foresight and preparation) or ever thou be sick.
- 20 Before judgment examine thyself, and in the day of visitation thou shall find mercy.
- 21 Humble thyself before thou be sick, and in the time of sins, show repentance.

22 Let nothing hinder thee to pay thy vow in due time, and defer (wait) not until death to be justified.

23 Before thou pray, prepare thyself; and be not as one that tempts the Lord.

24 Think upon the wrath that shall be at the end, and the time of vengeance, when He shall turn away His face.

25 When thou has enough, remember the time of hunger; and when thou are rich, think upon poverty and need.

26 From the morning until the evening the time is changed, and all things are soon done before the Lord.

27 A wise man will fear in every thing, and in day of sinning he will beware of offence; but a fool will not observe time.

28 Every man of understanding knows Wisdom, and will give praise unto him that found Her.

29 They that were of understanding in sayings became also wise themselves, and poured forth exquisite parables.

30 Go not after thy lusts, but refrain thyself from thine appetites.

31 If thou fives thy soul the desire that pleases her, she will make thee a laughingstock to thine enemies that malign (criticize) thee.

32 Take not pleasure in much good cheer, neither be tied to the expense thereof.

33 Be not made a beggar by banqueting upon borrowing, when thou has nothing in thy purse; for thou shall lie in wait for thine own life, and be talked on.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach Chapter 19

1 A laboring man that is given to drunkenness shall not be rich; and he that contemns (detests) small shall fall little by little.

2 Wine and women will make men of understanding to fall away; and he that cleaves to harlots will become impudent (disrespectful).

3 Moths and worms shall have him to heritage, and a bold man will be taken away.

4 He that is hasty to give credit is light-minded; and he that sins shall offend against his own soul.

5 Whoso takes pleasure in wickedness shall be condemned; but he that resists pleasures crowns his life.

6 He that can rule his tongue shall live without strife; and he that hates babbling shall have less evil.

7 Rehearse not unto another that which is told unto thee, and thou shall fare never the worse.

8 Whether it be to friend or foe, talk not of other men's lives; and if thou cannot without offence; reveal them not.

9 For He heard and observed thee, and when time comes He will hate thee.

10 If thou has heard a word let it die with thee; and be bold, it will not burst thee.

11 A fool travails with a word, as a woman in labor of a child.

12 As an arrow that sticks in a man's thigh, so is a word within a fool's belly.

13 Admonish (caution) a friend, it may be he has not done it; and if he have done it, that he do it not again.

14 Admonish thy friend, it may be he has not said it; and if he have, that he speak it not again.

15 Admonish a friend; for many times it is a slander, and believe not every tale.

16 There is one that slips, in his speech, but not from his heart; and who is he that has not offended with his tongue?

17 Admonish thy neighbor before thou threaten him; and not being angry, give place to the Law of the Most High.

18 The fear of the Lord is the first step to be accepted of Him, and Wisdom obtains His love.

19 The knowledge of the commandments of the Lord is the doctrine of life; and they that do things that please Him shall receive the fruit of the tree of immortality.

20 The fear of the Lord is all Wisdom; and in all Wisdom is the performance of the Law, and the knowledge of His Omnipotence.

21 If a servant say to his master, I will not do as it pleases thee; though afterward he do it, he angers him that nourished him.

22 The knowledge of wickedness is not Wisdom, neither at any time the counsel of sinners prudence.

23 There is a wickedness, and the same an abomination; and there is a fool wanting in Wisdom.

24 He that has small understanding, and fears God, is better than one that has much Wisdom, and transgresses the Law of the Most High.

25 There is an exquisite subtlety, and the same is unjust; and there is one that turns aside to make judgment appear; and there is a wise man that justifies in judgment.

26 There is a wicked man that hangs down his head sadly; but inwardly he is full of deceit.

27 Casting down his countenance, and making as if he heard not; where he is not known; he will do thee a mischief before thou be aware.

28 And if for want of power he be hindered from sinning, yet when he finds opportunity he will do evil.

29 A man may be known by his look, and one that has understanding by his countenance, when thou meets him.

30 A man's attire, and excessive laughter, and gait, show what he is.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach Chapter 20

1 There is a reproof that is not comely; again, some man holds his tongue, and he is wise.

2 It is much better to reprove, than to be angry secretly; and he that confesses his fault shall be preserved from hurt.

3 How good is it, when thou are reproved, to show repentance; for so shall thou escape willful sin.

4 As is the lust of a eunuch to deflower a virgin; so is he that executes judgment with violence.

5 There is one that keeps silence, and is found wise; and another by much babbling becomes hateful.

6 Some man holds his tongue, because he has not to answer; and some keep silence, knowing his time.

7 A wise man will hold his tongue till he see opportunity; but a babbler and a fool will regard no time.

8 He that uses many words shall be abhorred; and he that takes to himself authority therein shall be hated.

9 There is a sinner that has good success in evil things; and there is a gain that turns to loss.

10 There is a gift that shall not profit thee; and there is a gift whose recompense is double.

11 There is an abasement because of glory; and there is that lifts up his head from low estate.

12 There is that buy much for a little, and repay it sevenfold.

13 A wise man by his words makes him beloved; but the graces of fools shall be poured out.

14 The gift of a fool shall do thee no good when thou has it; neither yet of the envious for his necessity; for he looks to receive many things for one.

15 He gives little, and upbraids much; he opens his mouth like a crier; to the day he lends, and to morrow will he ask it again; such a one is to be hated of God and man.

16 The fool said; I have no friends, I have no thank for all my good deeds, and they that eat my bread speak evil of me.

17 How oft, and how many shall be laughed to scorn; for he knows not aright what it is to have; and it is all one unto him as if he had it not.

18 To slip on a pavement is better than to slip with the tongue; so the fall of the wicked shall come speedily.

19 An unseasonable tale will always be in the mouth of the unwise.

20 A wise sentence shall be rejected when it comes out of a fool's mouth; for he will not speak it in due season.

21 There is that is hindered from sinning through want; and when he takes rest, he shall not be troubled.

22 There is that destroys his own soul through bashfulness, and by accepting of persons overthrows himself.

23 There is that for bashfulness promises to his friend, and makes him his enemy for nothing.

24 A lie is a foul blot in a man, yet it is continually in the mouth of the untaught.

25 A thief is better than a man that is accustomed to lie; but they both shall have destruction to heritage.

26 The disposition of a liar is dishonorable, and his shame is ever with him.

27 A wise man shall promote himself to honor with his words; and he that has understanding will please great men.

28 He that tills his land shall increase his heap; and he that pleases great men shall get pardon for iniquity.

29 Presents and gifts blind the eyes of the wise; and stop up his mouth that he cannot reprove.

30 Wisdom that is hid, and treasure that is hoarded up, what profit is in them both?

31 Better is he that hides his folly than a man that hides his Wisdom.

32 Necessary patience in seeking the Lord; is better than he that leads his life without a guide.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach
Chapter 21

- 1 My son, has thou sinned? Do so no more, but ask pardon for thy former sins.
- 2 Flee from sin as from the face of a serpent; for if thou come too near it, it will bite thee; the teeth thereof are as the teeth of a lion, slaying the souls of men.
- 3 All iniquity is as a two edged sword, the wounds whereof cannot be healed.
- 4 To terrify and do wrong will waste riches; thus the house of proud men shall be made desolate.
- 5 A prayer out of a poor man's mouth reaches to the ears of God, and His judgment comes speedily.
- 6 He that hates to be reproved is in the way of sinners; but he that fears the Lord will repent from his heart.
- 7 An eloquent man is known far and near; but a man of understanding knows when he slips.
- 8 He that builds his house with other men's money is like one that gathers himself stones for the tomb of his burial.
- 9 The congregation of the wicked is like tow wrapped together; and the end of them is a flame of fire to destroy them.
- 10 The way of sinners is made plain with stones, but at the end thereof is the pit of hell.
- 11 He that keeps the Law of the Lord gets the understanding thereof; and the perfection of the fear of the Lord is Wisdom.
- 12 He that is not wise will not be taught; but there is a wisdom which multiplies bitterness.
- 13 The knowledge of a wise man shall abound like a flood; and his counsel is like a pure fountain of life.
- 14 The inner parts of a fool are like a broken vessel, and he will hold no knowledge as long as he lives.
- 15 If a skillful man hear a wise word, he will commend it, and add unto it; but as soon as one of no understanding hears it, it displeases him, and he casts it behind his back.
- 16 The talking of a fool is like a burden in the way, but grace shall be found in the lips of the wise.
- 17 They enquire at the mouth of the wise man in the congregation, and they shall ponder his words in their heart.
- 18 As a house is destroyed, so is wisdom to a fool; and the knowledge of the unwise is as talk without sense.

- 19 Doctrine unto fools is as fetters on the feet, and like manacles on the right hand.
- 20 A fool lifts up his voice with laughter; but a wise man does scarce smile a little.
- 21 Learning is unto a wise man as an ornament of gold, and like a bracelet upon his right arm.
- 22 A foolish man's foot is soon in his neighbor's house; but a man of experience is ashamed of him.
- 23 A fool will peep in at the door into the house; but he that is well nurtured will stand without.
- 24 It is the rudeness of a man to hearken at the door; but the wise man will be grieved with the disgrace.
- 25 The lips of talkers will be telling such things as pertain not unto them; but the words of such as have understanding are weighed in the balance.
- 26 The heart of fools is in their mouth; but the mouth of the wise is in their heart.
- 27 When the ungodly curse Satan, he curses his own soul.
- 28 The whisperer defiles his own soul, and is hated wheresoever he dwells.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach
Chapter 22

- 1 A slothful man is compared to a filthy stone, and every one will hiss him out to his disgrace.
- 2 A slothful man is compared to the filth of a dunghill; every man that takes it up will shake his hand.
- 3 An evil-nurtured man is the dishonor of his father that begat him; and a foolish daughter is born to his loss.
- 4 A wise daughter shall bring an inheritance to her husband; but she that lives dishonestly is her father's heaviness.
- 5 She that is bold dishonors both her father and husband, but they both shall despise her.
- 6 A tale out of season is as music in morning; but stripes and correction of wisdom are never out of time.
- 7 Whoso teaches a fool is as one that glues a potsherd together, and as he that wakes one from a sound sleep.
- 8 He that tells a tale to a fool speaks to one in a slumber; when he has told his tale, he will say; What is the matter?

9 If children live honestly, and have wherewithal, they shall cover the baseness of their parents.

10 But children, being haughty, through distain and want of nurture do stain the nobility of their kindred.

11 Weep for the dead, for he has lost the light; and weep for the fool, for he wants understanding; make little weeping for the dead, for he is at rest; but the life of the fool is worse than death.

12 Seven days do men mourn for him that is dead; but for a fool and an ungodly man all the days of his life.

13 Talk not much with a fool, and go not to him that has no understanding; beware of him, lest thou have trouble, and thou shall never be defiled with his fooleries; depart from him, and thou shall find rest, and never be disquieted with madness.

14 What is heavier than lead? And what is its name thereof, but a fool?

15 Sand, and salt, and a mass of iron, is easier to bear, than a man without understanding.

16 As timber girt and bound together in a building cannot be loosened with shaking; so the heart that is established by advised counsel shall fear at no time.

17 A heart settled upon a thought of understanding is as a fair plastering on a wall of a gallery.

18 Pales set on a high place will never stand against the wind; so a fearful heart in the imagination of a fool cannot stand against any fear.

19 He that pricks the eye will make tears to fall; and he that pricks the heart makes it to show her knowledge.

20 Whoso casts a stone at the birds frays them away; and he that upbraids his friend breaks friendship.

21 Though thou drew a sword at thy friend, yet despair not; for there may be a returning to favor.

22 If thou has open thy mouth against thy friend, fear not; for there may be reconciliation; except for upbraiding, or pride, or disclosing of secrets, or a treacherous wound; for these things every friend will depart.

23 Be faithful to thy neighbor in his poverty, that thou may rejoice in his prosperity; abide steadfast to him in the time of his trouble, that thou may be heir with him in his heritage; for a mean estate is not always to be contemned; nor the rich that is foolish to be had in admiration.

24 As the vapor and smoke of a furnace goes before the fire; so reviling before blood.

25 I will not be ashamed to defend a friend; neither will I hide myself from him.

26 And if any evil happen unto me by him, every one that hears it will beware of him.

27 Who shall set a watch before my mouth, and a seal of Wisdom upon my lips, that I fall not suddenly by them, and that my tongue destroy me not?

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach
Chapter 23

1 O Lord, Father and Governor of all my whole life, leave me not to their counsels, and let me not fall by them.

2 Who will set scourges over my thoughts; and the discipline of Wisdom over mine heart? That they spare me not for mine ignorance, and pass not by my sins.

3 Lest mine ignorance increase, and my sins abound to destruction, and I fall before mine adversaries, and mine enemy rejoice over me, whose hope is far from thy mercy.

4 O Lord, Father and God of my life, give me not a proud look, but turn away from thy servants always a haughty mind.

5 Turn away from me vain hopes and concupiscence (intimate desire), and thou shall hold him up that is desirous always to serve thee.

6 Let not the greediness of the belly, nor lust of the flesh take hold of me; and give not over me thy servant into an impudent (disrespectful) mind.

7 Hear, O ye children, the discipline of the mouth; he that keeps it shall never be taken in his lips.

8 The sinner shall be left in his foolishness; both the evil speaker and the proud shall fall thereby.

9 Accustom not thy mouth to swearing; neither use thyself to the naming of the Holy One.

10 For as a servant that is continually beaten shall not be without a blue mark; so he that swears and names God continually shall not be faultless.

11 A man that uses much swearing shall be filled with iniquity, and the plague shall never depart from his house; if he shall offend, his sin shall be upon him; and if he acknowledge not his sin, he makes a double offence; and if he swear in vain, he shall not be innocent, but his house shall be full of calamities.

12 There is a word that is clothed about with death; God grant that it be not found in the heritage of Jacob; for all such things shall be far from the godly, and they shall not wallow in their sins.

13 Use not thy mouth to intemperate (excessive) swearing, for therein is the word of sin.

15 Remember thy father and thy mother, when thou sit among great men. Be not forgetful before them, and so thou by the custom become a fool, and wish that thou had not been born, and curse the day of thy nativity.

15 The man that is accustomed to opprobrious (offensive) words will never be reformed all the days of his life.

16 Two sorts of men multiply sin, and the third will bring wrath; a hot mind is as a burning fire, it will never be quenched till it be consumed; a fornicator in the body of his flesh will never cease till he has kindled a fire.

17 All bread is sweet to a whore-monger, he will not leave off till he die.

18 A man that breaks a wedlock, saying thus in his heart; Who sees me? I am compassed about with darkness, the walls cover me, and no body sees me; what need I fear? The Most High will not remember my sins.

19 Such a man only fears the eyes of men, and knows not that the eyes of the Lord are ten thousand times brighter than the sun, beholding all the ways of men, and considering the most secret parts.

20 He knew all things ere ever they were created; so also after they were perfected he looked upon them all.

21 This man shall be punished in the streets of the city, and where he suspects not he shall be taken.

22 Thus shall it go also with the wife that leaves her husband, and brings in an heir by another.

23 For first, she has disobeyed the Law of the Most High; and secondly, she has trespassed against her own husband; and thirdly, she has played the whore in adultery, and brought children by another man.

24 She shall be brought out into the congregation, and inquisition shall be made of her children.

25 Her children shall not take root, and her branches shall bring forth no fruit.

26 She shall leave her memory to be cursed, and her reproach shall not be blotted out.

27 And they that remain shall know that there is nothing better than the fear of the Lord, and that there is nothing sweeter than to take heed unto the commandments of the Lord.

28 It is great glory to follow the Lord, and to be received of him is long life.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach Chapter 24

1 Wisdom will praise Herself, and shall glory in the midst of Her people.

2 In the congregation of the Most High shall She open her mouth, and triumph before His power.

3 I came out of the mouth of the Most High, and covered the earth as a cloud.

4 I dwelt in high places, and my throne is in a cloudy pillar.

- 5 I alone compassed the circuit of heaven, and walked in the bottom of the deep.
- 6 In the waves of the sea and in all the earth, and in every people and nation, I got a possession.
- 7 With all these I sought rest; and in whose inheritance shall I abide?
- 8 So the Creator of all things gave me a commandment, and He that created me caused my tabernacle to rest, and said; Let thy dwelling be in Jacob, and thine inheritance in Israel.
- 9 He created me from the beginning before the world, and I shall never fail.
- 10 In the Holy Tabernacle I served before Him; and so was I established in Sion (Zion).
- 11 Likewise in the beloved city He gave me rest, and in Jerusalem was my power.
- 12 And I took root in an honorable people, even in the portion of the Lord's inheritance.
- 13 I was exalted like a cedar in Libanus, and as a cyprus tree upon the mountains of Hermon.
- 14 I was exalted like a palm tree in En-gaddi, and as a rose plant in Jericho, as a fair olive tree in a pleasant field, and grew up as a plane tree by the water.
- 15 I gave a sweet smell like cinnamon and aspalathus, and I yielded a pleasant odor like the best myrrh, as galbanum, and onyx, and sweet storax, and as the perfume of frankincense in the Tabernacle.
- 16 As the turpentine tree I stretched out my branches, and my branches are of honor and grace.
- 17 As the vine brought I forth pleasant savor, and my flowers are the fruit of honor and riches.
- 18 I am the mother of fair love, and fear, and knowledge, and Holy hope; I therefore, being eternal, am given to all my children which are named of Him.
- 19 Come unto me, all ye that be desirous of me, and fill yourselves with my fruit.
- 20 For my memorial is sweeter than honey, and mine inheritance (sweeter) than the honey-comb.
- 21 They that eat me shall yet be hungry, and they that drink me shall yet be thirsty.
- 22 He that obeys me shall never be confounded, and they that work by me shall not do amiss.
- 23 All these things are the book of the Covenant of the Most High God, even the Law which Moses commanded for a heritage unto the congregations of Jacob.
- 24 Faint not to be strong in the Lord; that he may confirm you; cleave to him, for the Lord Almighty is God alone, and beside him there is no other Savior.
- 25 He fills all things with His Wisdom, as Phison and as Tigris in the time of new fruits.
- 26 He makes the understanding to abound like Euphrates, and as Jordan in the time of the harvest.

- 27 He makes the doctrine of knowledge appear as the light, and as Geon in the time of vintage.
- 28 The first man knew her not perfectly; no more shall the last find her out.
- 29 For her thoughts are more than the sea, and her counsels profounder than the great deep.
- 30 I also came out as a brook from a river, and as a conduit into a garden.
- 31 I said; I will water my best garden, and will water abundantly my garden bed; and lo, my brook became a river, and my river became the sea.
- 32 I will yet make doctrine to shine as the morning, and will send forth her light afar off.
- 33 I will yet pour out doctrine as prophecy, and leave it to all ages forever.
- 34 Behold that I have not labored for myself only, but for all them that seek Wisdom.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach
Chapter 25

- 1 In three things I was beautified, and stood up beautiful both before God and men; the unity of brethren, the love of neighbors, a man and a wife that agree together.
- 2 Three sorts of men my soul hates, and I am greatly offended at their life; a poor man that is proud, a rich man that is a liar, and an old adulterer that dotes (excessive affection).
- 3 If thou has gathered nothing in thy youth, how can thou find any thing in thine age?
- 4 O how comely a thing is judgment for gray hairs, and for ancient men to know counsel!
- 5 O how comely is the Wisdom of old men, and understanding and counsel to men of honor.
- 6 Much experience is the crown of old men, and the fear of God is their glory.
- 7 There be nine things which I have judged in mine heart to be happy, and the tenth I will utter with my tongue; A man that has joy of his children; and he that lives to see the fall of his enemy.
- 8 Well is him that dwells with a wife of understanding, and has not slipped with his tongue, and has not served a man more unworthy than himself.
- 9 Well is him that has found prudence, and he that speaks in the ears of them that will hear.
- 10 O how great is he that finds Wisdom! Yet is there none above him that fears the Lord.
- 11 But the love of the Lord passes all things for illumination; he that holds it, whereto shall he be likened?

12 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of his love; and faith is the beginning of cleaving unto him.

13 Give me any plague, but the plague of the heart; and any wickedness, but the wickedness of a woman.

14 And any affliction, but the affliction from them that hate me; and any revenge, but the revenge of enemies.

15 There is no head above the head of a serpent; and there is no wrath above the wrath of an enemy.

16 I had rather dwell with a lion and a dragon, than to keep house with a wicked woman.

17 The wickedness of a woman changes her face, and darkens her countenance like a sackcloth.

18 Her husband shall sit among his neighbors; and when he hears it shall sigh bitterly.

19 All wickedness is but little to the wickedness of a woman; let the portion of a sinner fall upon her.

20 As the climbing up of a sandy way is to the feet of the aged, so is a wife full of words to a quiet man.

21 Stumble not at the beauty of a woman, and desire not for pleasure.

22 A woman, if she maintain her husband, is full of anger, impudence (audacity), and much reproach.

23 A wicked woman abates the courage, makes a heavy countenance and a wounded heart; a woman that will not comfort her husband in distress makes weak hands and feeble knees.

24 Of a woman came the beginning of sin, and through her we all die.

25 Give the water no passage; neither a wicked woman liberty to gad abroad (spur horses).

26 If she go not as thou would have her, cut her off from thy flesh, and give her a bill of divorce, and her go.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach Chapter 26

1 Blessed is the man that has a virtuous wife, for the number of his days shall be double.

2 A virtuous woman rejoices her husband, and he shall fulfill the years of his life in peace.

3 A good wife is a good portion, which shall be given in portion of them that fear the Lord.

4 Whether a man be rich or poor, if he have a good heart toward the Lord, he shall at all times rejoice with cheerful countenance.

5 There be three things that mine heart fears; and for the fourth I was sore afraid; the slander of a city, the gathering together of an unruly multitude, and a false accusation; all these are worse than death.

6 But grief of heart and sorrow is a woman that is jealous over another woman, and a scourge of the tongue which communicates with all.

7 An evil wife is a yoke shaken to and fro; he that has hold of her is as though he held a scorpion.

8 A drunken woman and a gadder abroad (spurring horses) causes great anger, and she will not cover her own shame.

9 The whoredom of a woman may be known in her haughty looks and eyelids.

10 If thy daughter be shameless, keep her in straitly, lest she abuse herself through overmuch liberty.

11 Watch over an impudent (shameless) eye, and marvel not if she trespass against thee.

12 She will open her mouth, as a thirsty traveler when he has found a fountain, and drink of every water near her; by every hedge will she sit down and open her quiver at every arrow.

13 The grace of a wife delights her husband, and her discretion will fatten his bones.

14 A silent and loving woman is a gift of the Lord; and there is nothing so much worth as a mind well instructed.

15 A shamefaced and faithful woman is a double grace, and her continent mind cannot be valued.

16 As the sun when it arises in the high heaven; so is the beauty of a good wife in the ordering of her house.

17 As the clear light is upon the holy candlestick, so is the beauty of the face in ripe age.

18 As the golden pillars are upon the sockets of silver; so are the fair feet with a constant heart.

19 My son, keep the flower of thine age sound, and give not thy strength to strangers.

20 When thou has gotten a fruitful possession through all the field, sow it with thine own seed, trusting in the goodness of thy stock.

21 So thy race which thou leave shall be magnified, having the confidence of their good descent.

22 A harlot shall be counted as spittle; but a married woman is a tower against death to her husband.

23 A wicked woman is given as a portion to a wicked man; but a godly woman is given to him that fears the Lord.

24 A dishonest woman contemns shame; but an honest woman will reverence her husband.

25 A shameless woman shall be counted as a dog; but she that is shamefaced will fear the Lord.

26 A woman that honors her husband shall be judged wise of all; but she that dishonors him in her pride shall be counted ungodly of all.

27 A loud crying woman and a scold shall be sought out to drive away the enemies.

28 There be two things that grieve my heart; and the third makes me angry; and man of war that suffers poverty; and men of understanding that are not set by; and one that returns from righteousness to sin; the Lord prepares such a one for the sword.

29 A merchant shall hardly keep himself from doing wrong; and a huckster (sell shoddy goods) shall not be freed from sin.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach Chapter 27

1 Many have sinned for a small matter; and he that seeks for abundance will turn his eyes away.

2 As a nail sticks fast between the joinings of the stones; so does sin stick close between buying and selling.

3 Unless a man hold himself diligently in the fear of the Lord, his house shall soon be overthrown.

4 As when one sifts with a sieve, the refuse remains; so the filth of man in his talk.

5 The furnace proves the potter's vessels; so the trial of man is in his reasoning.

6 The fruit declares if the tree has been dressed; so is the utterance of a conceit in the heart of man.

7 Praise no man before thou hears him speak; for this is the trial of men.

8 If thou follow righteousness, thou shalt obtain Her, and put Her on, as a glorious long robe.

9 The birds will resort unto their like; so will truth return unto them that practice Her.

10 As the lion lies in wait for the prey; so sin for them that work iniquity.

11 The discourse of a Godly man is always with Wisdom; but a fool changes as the moon.

12 If thou be among the indiscrete, observe the time; but be continually among men of understanding.

- 13 The discourse of fools is irksome, and their sport is the wantonness of sin.
- 14 The talk of him that swears much makes the hair stand upright; and their brawls make one stop their ears.
- 15 The strife of the proud is blood-shedding, and their revilings are grievous to the ear.
- 16 Whosoever discovers secrets loses his credit; and shall never find friend to his mind.
- 17 Love thy friend, and be faithful unto him; but if thou betrays his secrets, follow no more after him.
- 18 For as a man has destroyed his enemy; so has thou lost the love of thy neighbor.
- 19 As one that lets a bird go out of his hand, so has thou let thy neighbor go, and shall not get him again.
- 20 Follow after him no more, for he is too far off; he is as a roe escaped out of the snare.
- 21 As for a wound, it may be bound up; and after reveling there may be reconciliation, but he that betrays secrets is without hope.
- 22 He that winks with the eyes works evil; and he that knows him will depart from him.
- 23 When thou are present, he will speak sweetly, and will admire thy words; but at the last he will writhe (contort) his mouth, and slander thy sayings.
- 24 I have hated many things, but nothing like him; for the Lord will hate him.
- 25 Whoso casts a stone on high casts it on his own head; and a deceitful stroke shall make many wounds.
- 26 Whoso digs a pit shall fall therein; and he that sets a trap shall be taken therein.
- 27 He that works mischief, it shall fall upon him, and he shall not know whence it comes.
- 28 Mockery and reproach are from the proud; but vengeance, as a lion, shall lie in wait for them.
- 29 They that rejoice at the fall of the righteous shall be taken in the snare, and anguish shall consume them before they die.
- 30 Malice and wrath, even these are abominations; and a sinful man shall have them both.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach
Chapter 28

1 He that revenges shall find vengeance from the Lord, and he will surely keep his sins in remembrance.

2 Forgive thy neighbor the hurt that he has done unto thee, so shall thy sins also be forgiven when thou pray.

3 One man bears hatred against another, and does he seek pardon from the Lord?

4 He shows no mercy to a man, which is like himself; and does he ask forgiveness of his own sins?

5 If he that is but flesh nourish hatred, who will entreat for pardon of his sins?

6 Remember thy end, and let enmity cease; remember corruption and death, and abide in the commandments.

7 Remember the commandments, and bear no malice to thy neighbor; remember the Covenant of the Highest, and wink at ignorance.

8 Abstain from strife, and thou shall diminish thy sins; for a furious man will kindle strife.

9 A sinful man disquiets friends, and makes debate among them that be at peace.

10 As the matter of the fire is, so it burns; and as a man's strength is, so is his wrath; and according to his riches his anger rises; and the stronger they are which contend (argue), the more they will be inflamed.

11 A hasty contention kindles a fire; and a hasty fighting sheds blood.

12 If thou blow the spark, it shall burn; if thou spit upon it, it shall be quenched; and both these come out of thy mouth.

13 Curse the whisperer and double-tongued; for such have destroyed many that were at peace.

14 A back-biting tongue has disquieted many, and driven them from nation to nation; strong cities has it pulled down, and overthrown the houses of great men.

15 A back-biting tongue has cast out virtuous women, and deprived them of their labors.

16 Whoso hearkens to it shall never find rest, and never dwell quietly.

17 The stroke of the whip makes marks in the flesh; but the stroke of the tongue breaks the bones.

18 Many have fallen by the edge of the sword, but not so many as have fallen by the tongue.

19 Well is he that is defended through the venom thereof; who has not drawn the yoke thereof, nor has been bound in her bands.

20 For the yoke thereof is a yoke of iron, and the bands thereof are bands of brass.

21 The death thereof is an evil death, the grave were better than it.

22 It shall not have rule over them that fear God, neither shall they be burned with the flame thereof.

23 Such as forsake the Lord shall fall into it; and it shall burn in them, and not be quenched; it shall be sent upon them as a lion, and devour them as a leopard.

24 Look that thou hedge thy possession about with thorns, and bind up thy silver and gold.

25 And weigh thy words in a balance, and make a door and bar for thy mouth.

26 Beware thou slide not by it, lest thou fall before him that lies in wait.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach Chapter 29

1 He that is merciful will lend unto his neighbor; and he that strengthens his hand keeps the commandments.

2 Lend to thy neighbor in time of his need, and pay thou thy neighbor again in due season.

3 Keep thy word, and deal faithfully with him, and thou shall always find the thing that is necessary for thee.

4 Many, when a thing was lent to them, reckoned it to be found, and put them to trouble that helped them.

5 Till he has receive, he will kiss a man's hand; and for his neighbor's money he will speak submissly (obediently); but when he should repay, he will prolong the time, and return words of grief, and complain of the time.

6 If he prevail, he shall hardly receive the half, and he will count as if he had found it; if not, he has deprived him of his money, and he has gotten him an enemy without cause; he pays him with cursings and railings, and for honor he will pay him disgrace.

7 Many therefore have refused to lend for other men's ill dealing, fearing to be defrauded.

8 Yet have thou patience with a man of poor estate, and delay not to show him mercy.

9 Help the poor for the commandment's sake, and turn him not away because of his poverty.

10 Lose thy money for thy brother and thy friend, and let it not rust under a stone to be lost.

11 Lay up thy treasures according to the commandments of the Most High, and it shall bring thee more profit than gold.

12 Shut up alms in thy storehouses; and it shall deliver thee from all affliction.

13 It shall fight for thee against thine enemies better than a mighty shield and strong spear.

- 14 An honest man is surety for his neighbor, but he that is impudent (rude) will forsake him.
- 15 Forget not the friendship of thy surety, for he has given his life for thee.
- 16 A sinner will overthrow the good estate of his surety.
- 17 And he that is of an unthankful mind will leave him in danger that delivered him.
- 18 Surety-ship has undone many of good estate, and shaken them as a wave of the sea; mighty men has it driven from their houses, so that they wandered among strange nations.
- 19 A wicked man transgressing the commandments of the Lord shall fall into surety-ship; and he that undertakes and follows other men's business for gain shall fall into (law)-suits.
- 20 Help thy neighbor according to thy power, and beware that thou thyself fall not into the same.
- 21 The chief thing for life is water, and bread, and clothing, and a house to cover shame.
- 22 Better is the life of a poor man in a mean cottage, than a delicate fare in another man's house.
- 23 Be it little or much, hold thee contented, that thou hear not the reproach of thy house.
- 24 For it is a miserable life to go from house to house; for where thou are a stranger, thou dare not open thy mouth.
- 25 Thou shall entertain, and feast, and have no thanks; moreover thou shall hear bitter words.
- 26 Come, thou stranger, and furnish a table, and feed me of that thou has already.
- 27 Give place, thou stranger, to an honorable man; my brother comes to be lodged, and I have need of mine house.
- 28 These things are grievous to a man of understanding; the upbraiding (scolding) of houseroom (roommate), and reproaching of lender.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach
Chapter 30

- 1 He that loves his son causes him often to feel the rod, that he may have joy of him in the end.
- 2 He that chastises his son shall have joy in him, and shall rejoice of him among his acquaintances.
- 3 He that teaches his son grieves the enemy; and before his friends he shall rejoice of him.
- 4 Though his father die, yet he is as though he were not dead; for he has left one behind him that is like himself.
- 5 While he lived, he saw and rejoiced in him; and when he died he was not sorrowful.

6 He left behind him an avenger against his enemies, and one that shall requite kindness to his friends.

7 He that makes too much of his son shall bind up his wounds; and his bowels will be troubled at every cry.

8 An horse not broken becomes headstrong; and a child left to himself will be willful.

9 Cocker (spoil with indulgence) thy child, and he shall make thee afraid; play with him, and he will bring thee to heaviness (grief).

10 Laugh not with him, lest thou have sorrow with him, and lest thou gnash thy teeth in the end.

11 Give him no liberty in his youth, and wink not at his follies.

12 Bow down his neck while he is young, and beat him on the sides while he is a child, lest he wax stubborn, and be disobedient unto thee, and so bring sorrow to thine heart.

13 Chastise thy son and hold him to labor, lest his lewd behavior be an offence to thee.

14 Better is the poor, being sound and strong of constitution, than a rich man that is afflicted in his body.

15 Health and good estate of body ate above all gold, and a strong body above infinite wealth.

16 There is no riches above a sound body, and no joy above the joy of the heart.

17 Death is better than a bitter life or continual sickness.

18 Delicates poured upon a mouth shut up (idols) are as messes of meat set upon a grave.

19 What good does the offering unto an idol? For neither can it eat nor smell; so is he that is persecuted of the Lord.

20 He sees with his eyes and groans, as a eunuch that embraces a virgin and sighs.

21 Give not over thy mind to heaviness, and afflict not thyself in thine own counsel.

22 The gladness of the heart is the life of a man, and the joyfulness of a man prolongs his days.

23 Love thine own soul, and comfort thy heart, remove sorrow far from thee; for sorrow has killed many, and there is no profit therein.

24 Envy and wrath shorten the life, and carefulness brings age before the time.

25 A cheerful and good heart will have care of his meat and diet.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach
Chapter 31

- 1 Watching for riches consumes the flesh, and the care (anxiety) thereof drives away sleep.
- 2 Watching care will not let a man slumber, as a sore disease breaks sleep.
- 3 The rich has great labor in gathering riches together; and when he rests, he is filled with his delicates.
- 4 The poor labors in his poor estate; and when he leaves off, he is still needy.
- 5 He that loves gold shall not be justified, and he that follows corruption shall have enough thereof.
- 6 Gold has been the ruin of many, and their destruction was present.
- 7 It is a stumbling-block unto them that sacrifice to it, and every fool shall be taken therewith.
- 8 Blessed is the rich that is found without blemish, and has not gone after gold.
- 9 Who is he? And we will call him blessed; for wonderful things has he done among his people.
- 10 Who has been tried thereby, and found perfect? Then let him glory. Who might offend, and has not offended? Or done evil, and has not done it?
- 11 His goods shall be established, and the congregation shall declare his alms.
- 12 If thou sit at a bountiful table, be not greedy upon it, and say not; There is much meat upon it.
- 13 Remember that a wicked eye is an evil thing; and what is created more wicked than an eye? Therefore it weeps upon every occasion.
- 14 Stretch not thine hand wither-soever it looks, and thrust (collide) it not with him into the dish.
- 15 Judge not thy neighbor by thyself; and be discreet in every point.
- 16 Eat as it becomes a man, those things which are set before thee; and devour not, lest thou be hated.
- 17 Leave off first for manners' sake; and be not insatiable, lest thou offend.
- 18 When thou sits among many, reach not thine hand out first of all.
- 19 A very little is sufficient for a man well nurtured, and he fetches not his wind short upon his bed.
- 20 Sound sleep comes of moderate eating; he rises early, and his wits are with him; but the pain of watching and choler, and pangs of the belly, are with an insatiable man.

- 21 And if thou has been forced to eat, arise, go froth, vomit, and thou shall have rest.
- 22 My son, hear me, and despise me not, and at the last thou shall find as I told thee; in all thy works be quick, so shall there no sickness come unto thee.
- 23 Whoso is liberal of his meat, men shall speak well of him; and the report of his good housekeeping will be believed.
- 24 But against him that is a niggard (selfish) of his meat the whole city shall murmur; and the testimony of his niggardness shall not be doubted of.
- 25 Show not thy valiantness in wine; for wine has destroyed many.
- 26 The furnace proves the edge by dipping; so does wine the hearts of the proud by drunkenness.
- 27 Wine is as good as life to a man, if it be drunk moderately; what life is then to a man that is without wine? For it was made to make men glad.
- 28 Wine measurably drunk and in season brings gladness of the heart, and cheerfulness of the mind.
- 29 But wine drunken with excess makes bitterness of the mind, with brawling and quarreling.
- 30 Drunkenness increases the rage of a fool till he offend; it diminishes strength, and makes wounds.
- 31 Rebuke not thy neighbor at the wine, and despise him not in his mirth (delight); give him no despiteful words, and press not upon him with urging him to drink.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach
Chapter 32

- 1 If thou be made master of a feast, lift not thyself up, but be among them as one of the rest; take diligent care for them, and so sit down.
- 2 And when thou has done all thy office, take thy place, that thou may be merry with them, and receive a crown for thy well ordering of the feast.
- 3 Speak, thou that are the elder, for it becomes thee, but with sound judgment; and hinder not music.
- 4 Pour not out words where there is a musician, and show not forth Wisdom out of time.
- 5 A concert of music in a banquet of wine is as a signet of carbuncle (blemish) set in gold.
- 6 As a signet of an emerald set in a work of gold, so is the melody of music with pleasant wine.
- 7 Speak, young man, if there be need of thee; and yet scarcely, when thou are twice asked.

- 8 Let thy speech be short, comprehending much in few words; be as one that knows and yet holds his tongue.
- 9 If thou be among great men, make not thyself equal with them; and when ancient men are in place, use not many words.
- 10 Before thunder goes lightning; and before a shamefaced man shall go favor.
- 11 Rise up betimes, and be not the last; but get thee home without delay.
- 12 There take thy pastime, and do what thou wilt; but sin not by proud speech.
- 13 And for these things bless Him that made thee, and has replenished thee with his good things.
- 14 Whoso fears the Lord will receive his discipline; and they that seek him early shall find favor.
- 15 He that seeks the Law shall be filled therewith; but the hypocrite will be offended thereat.
- 16 They that fear the Lord (Yahweh) shall find judgment, and shall kindle justice as a light.
- 17 A sinful man will not be reprov'd, but finds an excuse according to his will.
- 18 A man of counsel will be considerate; but a strange and proud man is not daunted with fear.
- 19 Do nothing without advice; and when thou has once done, repent not.
- 20 Go not in a way wherein thou may fall, and stumble not among the stones.
- 21 Be not confident in a plain way.
- 22 And be aware of thine own children.
- 23 In every good work trust thy own soul; for this is the keeping of the commandments.
- 24 He that believes in the Lord takes heed to the commandment; and he that trusts in Him shall fare never the worse.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach
Chapter 33

- 1 There shall no evil happen unto him that fears the Lord (Jahveh / Yahweh); but in temptation even again he will deliver him.
- 2 A wise man hates not the Law; but he that is a hypocrite therein is as a ship in a storm.
- 3 A man of understanding trusts in the Law; and the Law is faithful to him, as an oracle.
- 4 Prepare what to say, and so thou shall be heard; and bind up instruction, and then make answer.

- 5 The heart of the foolish is like a cartwheel; and his thoughts are like a rolling axletree.
- 6 A stallion horse is as a mocking friend; he neighs under every one that sits upon him.
- 7 Why does one day excel another, when as all the light of every day in the year is of the sun?
- 8 By the knowledge of the Lord they were distinguished; and he altered seasons and feasts.
- 9 Some of them has He made High Days, and Hallowed them, and some of them has He made ordinary days.
- 10 And all men are from the ground, and Adam was created of earth.
- 11 In much knowledge the Lord has divided them, and made their ways diverse.
- 12 Some of them has He blessed and exalted and some of them he sanctified, and set near himself; but some of them He has cursed and brought low, and turned out of their places.
- 13 As the clay is in the potter's hand, to fashion it at His pleasure; so man is in the hand of Him that made him, to render to them as likes Him best.
- 14 Good is set against evil, and life against death; so is the godly against the sinner, and the sinner against the godly.
- 15 So look upon all the works of the Most High; and there are two and two, one against another.
- 16 I awaked up last of all, as one that gathers after the grape-gatherers; by the blessing of the Lord I profited, and tread my winepress like a gatherer of grapes.
- 17 Consider that I labored not for myself only, but for all them that seek learning.
- 18 Hear me, O ye great men of the people, and hearken with your ears, ye rulers of the congregation.
- 19 Give not thy son and wife, thy brother and friend, power over thee while thou lives; and give not thy goods to another; lest it repent thee, and thou entreat for the same again.
- 20 As long as thou live and have breath in thee, give not thyself over to any.
- 21 For better it is that thy children should seek to thee, than that thou should stand to their courtesy.
- 22 In all thy works keep to thyself the preeminence; leave not a stain in thine honor.
- 23 At the time when thou shall end thy days, and finish thy life, distribute thine inheritance.
- 24 Fodder, a wand, and burdens, are for the ass; and bread, correction, and work, for a servant.
- 25 If thou set thy servant to labor, thou shall find rest; but if thou let him go idle, he shall seek liberty.

- 26 A yoke and a collar do bow the neck; so are tortures and torments for an evil servant.
- 27 Send him to labor, that he be not idle; for idleness teaches much evil.
- 28 Set him to work, as is fit for him; if he be not obedient, put on more heavy fetters.
- 29 But be not excessive toward any; and without discretion do nothing.
- 30 If thou have a servant, let him be unto thee as thyself, because thou has bought him with a price.
- 31 If thou have a servant, entreat him as a brother; for thou has need of him, as of thine own soul; if thou entreat him evil, and he run from thee, which way will thou go to seek him?

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach
Chapter 34

- 1 The hopes of a man void of understanding are vain and false; and dreams lift up fools.
- 2 Whoso regards dreams is like him that catches at a shadow, and follows after the wind.
- 3 The vision of dreams is the resemblance of one thing to another, even as the likeness of a face to a face.
- 4 Of an unclean thing what can be cleansed? And from that thing which is false what truth can come?
- 5 Divinations, and sooth-sayings, and dreams, are vain; and the heart fancies; as a woman's heart in travail.
- 6 If they be not sent from the Most High in thy visitation, set not thy heart upon them.
- 7 For dreams have deceived many, and they have failed that put their trust in them.
- 8 The Law shall be found perfect without lies; and Wisdom is perfection to a faithful mouth.
- 9 A man that has traveled knows many things; and he that has much experience will declare Wisdom.
- 10 He that has no experience knows little; but he that has traveled is full of prudence.
- 11 When I traveled, I saw many things; and I understand more than I can express.
- 12 I was oft-times in danger of death; yet I was delivered because of these things.
- 13 The spirit of those that fear the Lord shall live; for their hope is in Him that saves them.
- 14 Whoso fears the Lord shall not fear nor be afraid; for He is hope.

15 Blessed is the soul of him that fears the Lord; to whom does He look? And who is His strength?

16 For the eyes of the Lord are upon them that love Him, He is their mighty protection and strong stay, a defense from heat, and a cover from the sun at noon, a preservation from stumbling, and a help from falling.

17 He raises up the soul, and lightens the eyes; He gives health, life, and blessing.

18 He that sacrifices of a thing wrongfully gotten, his offering is ridiculous; and the gifts of unjust men are not accepted.

19 The Most High is not pleased with the offerings of the wicked; neither is He pacified for sin by the multitude of sacrifices.

20 Whoso brings an offering of the goods of the poor does as one that killed the son before the father's eyes.

21 The bread of the needy is their life; he that defrauds him thereof is a man of blood.

22 He that takes away his neighbor's living slays him; and he that defrauds the labor of his hire is a bloodshedder.

23 When one builds, and another pulls down, what profit have they then but labor?

24 When one prays, and another curses, whose voice will the Lord hear?

25 He that washes himself after touching of a dead body, if he touches it again, what avails his washing?

26 So is it with a man that fasts for his sins, and goes again, and does the same; who will hear his prayer? O what does his humbling profit him?

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach Chapter 35

1 He that keeps the Law brings offerings enough; he that takes heed to the commandment offers a peace offering.

2 He that requites (needs) a good-turn offers fine flour; and he that gives alms sacrifices praise.

3 To depart from wickedness is a thing pleasing to the Lord; and to forsake unrighteousness is a propitiation (atonement).

4 Thou shall not appear empty before the Lord.

5 For all these things are to be done because of the commandment.

- 6 The offering of the righteous makes the Altar fat, and the sweet savor thereof is before the Most High.
- 7 The sacrifice of a just man is acceptable, and the memorial thereof shall never be forgotten.
- 8 Give the Lord his honor with a good eye, and diminish not the firstfruits of thine hand.
- 9 In all thy gifts show a cheerful countenance, and dedicate thy tithes with gladness.
- 10 Give unto the Most High according as He has enriched thee; and as thou has gotten, give with a cheerful eye.
- 11 For the Lord recompenses (rewards), and will give thee seven times as much.
- 12 Do not think to corrupt (bribe) with gifts; for such he will not receive; and trust not to unrighteous sacrifices; for the Lord is judge, and with Him is no respect (impartial) of persons.
- 13 He will not accept any person against a poor man, but will hear the prayer of the oppressed.
- 14 He will not despise the supplication of the fatherless; nor the widow, when she pours out her complaint.
- 15 Do not the tears run down the widow's cheeks? And is not her cry against him that caused them to fall?
- 16 He that serves the Lord shall be accepted with favor, and his prayer shall reach unto the clouds.
- 17 The prayer of the humble pierces the clouds; and till it come nigh, he will not be comforted; and will not depart, till the Most High shall behold to judge righteously, and execute judgment.
- 18 For the Lord will not be slack, neither will the Mighty be patient toward them, till He have smitten in sunder the loins of the unmerciful, and repayed vengeance to the heathen; till He have taken away the multitude of the proud, and broken the scepter of the unrighteous.
- 19 Till He have rendered to every man according to his deeds, and to the works of men according to their devices; till he have judged the cause of His people, and made them to rejoice in His mercy.
- 20 Mercy is seasonable in the time of affliction, as clouds of rain in the time of drought.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach
Chapter 36

- 1 Have mercy upon us, O Lord God of all, and behold us.
- 2 And send thy fear upon all the nations that seek not after Thee.
- 3 Lift up Thy hand against the strange nations, and let them see Thy power.
- www.theorybin.com Apocrypha Ecclesiastes by Sirach

- 4 As Thou was sanctified in us before them; so be Thou magnified among them before us.
- 5 And let them know Thee, as we have known Thee, that there is no God but only Thou, O God.
- 6 Show new signs, and make other strange wonders; glorify Thy hand and Thy right arm, that they may set forth Thy wondrous works.
- 7 Raise up indignation, and pour out wrath; take away the adversary, and destroy the enemy.
- 8 Make the time short, remember the Covenant, and let them declare thy wonderful works.
- 9 Let him that escapes be consumed by the rage of the fire; and let them perish that oppress the people.
- 10 Smite in sunder the heads of the rulers of the heathen, that say, There is none other but we.
- 11 Gather all the tribes of Jacob together, and inherit thou them, as from the beginning.
- 12 O Lord, have mercy upon the people that is called by Thy name, and upon Israel, whom Thou has named thy firstborn.
- 13 O be merciful unto Jerusalem, Thy holy city, the place of Thy rest.
- 14 Fill Sion with Thine unspeakable oracles, and Thy people with Thy glory.
- 15 Give testimony unto those that Thou has possessed from the beginning, and raise up prophets that have been in Thy name.
- 16 Reward them that wait for Thee, and let Thy prophets be found faithful.
- 17 O Lord, hear the prayer of Thy servants, according to the blessing of Aaron over Thy people, that all they which dwell upon the earth may know that thou are the Lord, the eternal God.
- 18 The belly devours all meats, yet is one meat better than another.
- 19 The palate tastes diverse kinds of venison; so does a heart of understanding false speeches.
- 20 A forward (deceitful) heart causes heaviness; but a man of experience will recompense (reward) him.
- 21 A woman will receive every man, yet is one daughter better than another.
- 22 The beauty of a woman cheers the countenance, and a man loves nothing better.
- 23 If there be kindness, meekness, and comfort, in her tongue, then is not her husband like other men.
- 24 He that gets a wife begins a possession, a help like unto himself, and a pillar of rest.

25 Where no hedge is, there the possession is spoiled; and he that has no wife will wander up and down mourning.

26 Who will trust a thief well appointed, that skips from city to city? So who will believe a man that has no house, and lodges wheresoever the night takes him?

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach
Chapter 37

1 Every friend says; I am his friend also; but there is a friend, which is only a friend in name.

2 Is it not a grief unto death, when a companion and friend is turned to an enemy?

3 O wicked imagination, whence came thou in to cover the earth with deceit?

4 There is a companion, which rejoices in the prosperity of a friend, but in the time of trouble will be against him.

5 There is a companion, which helps his friend for the belly, and takes up the buckler (shield) against the enemy.

6 Forget not thy friend in thy mind, and be not unmindful of him in thy riches.

7 Every counselor extols counsel; but there is some that counsel for himself.

8 Beware of a counselor, and know before what need he has; for he will counsel for himself; lest he cast the lot upon thee.

9 And say to thee; Thy way is good; and afterward he stand on the other side, to see what shall befall thee.

10 Consult not with one that suspects thee; and hide thy counsel from such as envy thee.

11 neither consult with a woman touching her of whom she is jealous; neither with a coward in matters of war; nor with a merchant concerning exchange; nor with a buyer of selling; nor with an envious man of thankfulness; nor with an unmerciful man touching kindness; nor with the slothful for any work; nor with a hireling for a year of finishing work; nor with an idle servant of much business; hearken not unto these in any manner of counsel.

12 But be continually with a godly man, whom thou know to keep the commandments of the Lord, whose mind is according to thy mind, and will sorrow with thee, if thou shall miscarry.

13 And let the counsel of thine own heart stand; for there is no man more faithful unto thee than it.

14 For a man's mind is sometime wont to tell him more than seven watchmen, that sit above in an high tower.

15 And above all this pray to the Most High, that He will direct thy way in truth.

- 16 Let reason go before every enterprise, and counsel before every action.
- 17 The countenance is a sign of changing of the heart.
- 18 Four manner of things appear; good and evil, life and death; but the tongue rules over them continually.
- 19 There is one that is wise and teaches many, and yet is unprofitable to himself.
- 20 There is one that shows wisdom in words, and is hated; he shall be destitute of all food.
- 21 For grace is not given, him from the Lord, because he is deprived of all Wisdom.
- 22 Another is wise to himself; and the fruits of understanding are commendable in his mouth.
- 23 A wise man instructs his people; and the fruits of his understanding fail not.
- 24 A wise man shall be filled with blessing; and all they that see him shall count him happy.
- 25 The days of the life of man may be numbered; but the days of Israel are innumerable.
- 26 A wise man shall inherit glory among his people, and his name shall be perpetual.
- 27 My son, prove thy soul in thy life, and see what is evil for it, and give not that unto it.
- 28 For all things are not profitable for all men, neither has every soul pleasure in every thing.
- 29 Be not insatiable in any dainty thing, nor too greedy upon meats.
- 30 For excess of meats bring sickness, and surfeiting (eat past full) will turn into choler.
- 31 By surfeiting have many perished; but he that takes heed prolongs his life.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach
Chapter 38

- 1 Honor a physician with the honor due unto him for the uses which ye may have of him; for the Lord has created him.
- 2 For of the Most High comes healing, and he shall receive honor of the king.
- 3 The skill of the physician shall lift up his head; and in the sight of great men he shall be in admiration.
- 4 The Lord has created medicines out of the earth; and he that is wise will not abhor them.
- 5 Was not the water made sweet with wood, that the virtue thereof might be known?

6 And He has given men skill, that He might be honored in His marvelous works.

7 With such does He heal men, and take away their pains.

8 Of such does the apothecary make a confection; and of his works there is no end; and from him is peace over all the earth.

9 My son, in thy sickness be not negligent; but pray unto the Lord, and He will make thee whole.

10 Leave off from sin, and order thine hands aright; and cleanse thy heart from all wickedness.

11 Give a sweet savor, and a memorial of fine flour; and make a fat offering, as not being.

12 Then give place to the physician, for the Lord has created him; let him not go from thee, for thou has need of him.

13 There is a time when in their hands there is good success.

14 For they shall also pray unto the Lord, that he would prosper that, which they give for ease and remedy to prolong life.

15 He that sins before his Maker, let him fall into the hand of the physician.

16 My son, let tears fall down over the dead, and begin lament, as if thou has suffered great harm thyself; and then cover his body according to the custom, and neglect not his burial.

17 Weep bitterly, and make great moan, and use lamentation, as he is worthy, and that a day or two, lest thou be evil spoken of; and then comfort thyself for thy heaviness.

18 For of heaviness comes death, and the heaviness of the heart breaks strength.

19 In affliction also sorrow remains; and the life of the poor is the curse of the heart.

20 Take no heaviness to heart; drive it away, and member (remember?) the last end.

21 Forget it not, for there is no turning again; thou shall not do him good, but hurt thyself.

22 Remember my (dead man's) judgment; for thine also shall be so; yesterday for me, and to-day for thee.

23 When the dead is at rest, let his remembrance rest; and be comforted for him; when his spirit is departed from him.

24 The Wisdom of the learned man comes by opportunity of leisure; and he that has little business shall become wise.

25 How can he get Wisdom that holds the plough, and that glories in the goad, that drive the oxen, and is occupied in their labors, and whose talk is of bullocks?

26 He gives mind to make furrows; and is diligent to give the kine fodder.

27 So every carpenter and work-master, that labors night and day; and they that cut and grave seals, and are diligent to make great variety, and give themselves to counterfeit imagery, and watch to finish a work.

28 The smith also sitting by the anvil, and considering the iron work, the vapor of the fire wastes his flesh, and he fights with the heat of the furnace; the noise of the hammer and the anvil is ever in his ears, and his eyes look still upon the pattern of the thing that he makes; he sets his mind to finish his work, and watches to polish it perfectly.

29 So does the potter sitting at his work, and turning the wheel about with his feet, who is always carefully set at his work, and makes all his work by number;

30 He fashions the clay with his arm, and bows down his strength before his feet; he applies himself to lead (lean?) it over; and he is diligent to make clean the furnace.

31 All these trust to their hands; and every one is wise in his work.

32 Without these cannot a city be inhabited; and they shall not dwell where they will, nor go up and down.

33 They shall not be sought for in public counsel, nor sit high in the congregation; they shall not sit on the judges seat, nor understand the sentence of judgment; they cannot declare justice and judgment; and they shall not be found where parables are spoken.

34 But they will maintain the state of the world, and all their desire is in the work of their craft.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach Chapter 39

1 But he that gives his mind to the Law of the Most High, and is occupied in the meditation thereof, will seek out the Wisdom of all the ancient, and be occupied in prophecies.

2 He will keep the sayings of the renowned men; and where subtle parables are, he will be there also.

3 He will seek out the secrets of grave sentences, and be conversant in dark parables.

4 He shall serve among great men, and appear before princes; he will travel through strange countries; for he has tried the good and the evil among men.

5 He will give his heart to resort early to the Lord that made him, and will pray before the Most High, and will open his mouth in prayer, and make supplication for his sins.

6 When the Great Lord will, he shall be filled with the spirit of understanding; he shall pour out wise sentences, and give thanks unto the Lord in his prayer.

7 He shall direct his counsel and knowledge, and in his secrets shall he meditate.

8 He shall show forth that which he has learned, and shall glory in the Law of the Covenant of the Lord.

9 Many shall commend his understanding; and so long as the world endures, it shall not be blotted out; his memorial shall not depart away, and his name shall live from generation to generation.

10 Nations shall show forth his Wisdom, and the congregation shall declare his praise.

11 If he die, he shall leave a greater name than a thousand; and if he live, he shall increase it.

12 Yet have I more to say, which I have thought upon; for I am filled as the moon at the full.

13 Hearken unto me, ye holy children, and bud forth as a rose growing by the brook of the field.

14 And give ye a sweet savor as frankincense, and flourish as a lily, send forth a smell, and sing a song of praise, bless the Lord in all His works.

15 Magnify His name, and show forth His praise with the songs of your lips, and with harps, and in praising Him ye shall say after this manner.

16 All the works of the Lord are exceeding good, and whatsoever He commands shall be accomplished in due season.

17 And none may say; What is this? Wherefore is that? For at a time convenient they shall all be sought out; at His commandment the waters stood as a heap, and at the words of His mouth the receptacles of waters. (were contained)

18 At His commandment is done whatsoever pleases Him; and none can hinder, when he will save.

19 The works of all flesh are before Him, and nothing can be hid from His eyes.

20 He sees from everlasting to everlasting; and there is nothing wonderful before Him.

21 A man need not say; What is this? Wherefore is that? For He has made all things for their uses.

22 His blessing covered the dry land as a river, and watered it as a flood.

23 As He has turned the waters into saltness; so shall the heathen inherit His wrath.

24 As His ways are plain unto the holy; so are they stumbling-blocks unto the wicked.

25 For the good are good things created from the beginning; so evil things for sinners.

26 The principal things for the whole use of man's life are water, fire, iron, and salt, flour of wheat, honey, milk, and the blood of the grape, and oil, and clothing.

27 All these are good to the godly; so to the sinners, they are turned into evil.

28 There be spirits that are created for vengeance, which in their fury lay on sore strokes; in the time of destruction they pour out their force, and appease the wrath of Him that made them.

29 Fire, and hail, and famine, and death, all these were created for vengeance.

30 Teeth of wild beasts, and scorpions, serpents, and the sword punishing the wicked to destruction.

31 They shall rejoice in His commandment, and they shall be ready upon the earth, when need is; and when their time is come, they shall not transgress His word.

32 Therefore from the beginning I was resolved, and thought upon these things, and have left them in writing.

33 All the works of the Lord are good; and He will give every needful thing in due season.

34 So that a man cannot say; This is worse than that; for in time they shall all be well approved.

35 And therefore praise ye the Lord with the whole heart and mouth, and bless the Name of the Lord. (YHWH, Yahweh)

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach Chapter 40

1 Great travail is created for every man, and a heavy yoke is upon the sons of Adam, from the day that they go out of their mother's womb, till the day that they return to the mother of all things.

2 Their imagination of things to come, and the day of death, their thoughts, and fear of heart.

3 From Him that sits on a throne of glory, unto him that is humbled in earth and ashes.

4 From him that wears purple and a crown, unto him that is clothed with a linen frock.

5 Wrath, and envy trouble, and unquietness, fear of death, and anger, and strife, and in the time of rest upon his bed his night sleep, do change his knowledge.

6 A little or nothing is his rest, and afterward he is in his sleep, as in a day of keeping watch, troubled in the vision of his heart, as if he were escaped out of a battle.

7 When all is safe, he awakes, and marvels that the fear was nothing.

8 Such things happen unto all flesh, both man and beast, and that is sevenfold more upon sinners.

9 Death and bloodshed, strife, and sword, calamities, famine, tribulation, and the scourge.

10 These things are created for the wicked, and for their sakes came the flood.

11 All things that are of the earth shall turn to the earth again; and that which is from the waters does return into the sea.

12 All bribery and injustice shall be blotted out; but true dealing shall endure for ever.

13 The goods of the unjust shall be dried up like a river, and shall vanish with noise, like a great thunder in rain.

14 While he opens his hand he shall rejoice; so shall transgressors come to naught.

15 The children of the ungodly shall not bring forth many branches; but are as unclean roots upon a hard rock.

16 The weed growing upon every water and bank of a river shall be pulled up before all grass.

17 Bountifulness is as a most fruitful garden, and mercifulness endures for ever.

18 To labor, and to be content with that a man has, is sweet life; but he that finds a treasure is above them both.

19 Children and the building of a city continue a man's name; but a blameless wife is counted above them both.

20 Wine and music rejoice the heart; but the love is Wisdom is above them both.

21 The pipe and psaltery (harp) make sweet melody; but a pleasant tongue is above them both.

22 Thine eye desires favor and beauty; but more than both corn while it is green.

23 A friend and companion never meet amiss; but above both is a wife with her husband.

24 Brethren and help are against time of trouble; but alms shall deliver more than them both.

25 Gold and silver make the foot stand sure; but counsel is esteemed above them both.

26 Riches and strength lift up the heart; but the fear of the Lord is above them both; there is no want in the fear of the Lord, and it needs not to seek help.

27 The fear of the Lord is a fruitful garden, and covers him above all glory.

28 My son, lead not a beggar's life; for better it is to die than to beg.

29 The life of him that depends on another man's table is not to be counted for a life; for he pollutes himself with other men's meat; but a wise man well nurtured will beware thereof.

30 Begging is sweet in the mouth of the shameless; but in his belly there shall burn a fire.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach
Chapter 41

1 O death, how bitter is the remembrance of thee to a man that lived at rest in his possessions, unto the man that has nothing to vex him, and that has prosperity in all things; yea, unto him that is yet able to receive meat!

2 O death, acceptable is thy sentence unto the needy, and unto him whose strength fails, that is now in the last age, and is vexed with all things, and to him that despairs, and has lost patience!

3 Fear not the sentence of death, remember them that have come before thee, and that come after; for this is the sentence of the Lord over all flesh.

4 And why are thou against the pleasure of the Most High? There is no inquisition in the grave, whether thou have lived ten, or a hundred, or a thousand years.

5 The children of sinners are abominable children, and they that are conversant in the dwelling of the ungodly.

6 The inheritance of sinners' children shall perish, and their posterity shall have perpetual reproach.

7 The children will complain of an ungodly father, because they shall be reproached for his sake.

8 Woe be unto you, ungodly men, which have forsaken the Law of the Most High God! For if ye increase, it shall be to your destruction.

9 And if ye be born, ye shall be born to a curse; and if ye die, a curse shall be your portion.

10 All that are of the earth shall turn to earth again; so the ungodly shall go from a curse to destruction.

11 the mourning of men is about their bodies; but an ill name of sinners shall be blotted out.

12 Have regard to thy name; for that shall continue with thee above a thousand great treasures of gold.

13 A good life has but a few days; but a good name endures for ever.

14 My children; keep discipline in peace; for Wisdom that is hid, and a treasure that is not seen, what profit is in them both?

15 A man that hides his foolishness is better than a man that hides his Wisdom.

16 Therefore be shamefaced according to my word; for it is not good to retain all shamefacedness; neither is it altogether approved in every thing.

17 Be ashamed of whoredom before father and mother; and of a lie before a prince and a mighty man.

18 Of an offence before a judge and ruler; of iniquity before a congregation and people; of unjust dealing before thy partner and friend.

19 And of theft in regard of the place where thou sojourns, and in regard of the truth of God and his Covenant; and to lean with thine elbow upon the meat; and of scorning to give and take.

20 And of silence before them that salute thee; and to look upon a harlot.

21 And to turn away thy face from thy kinsman; or to take away a portion or a gift; or to gaze upon another man's wife.

22 Or to be over-busy with his maid, and come not near her bed; or of upbraiding speeches before friends; and after thou has given, upbraid not.

23 Or of iterating and speaking again that which thou has heard; and of revealing of secrets.

24 So shall thou be truly shamefaced and find favor before all men.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach Chapter 42

1 Of these things be not thou ashamed, and accept no person to sin thereby.

2 Of the Law of the Most High, and His Covenant; and of judgment to justify the ungodly.

3 Of reckoning with thy partners and travelers; or the gift of the heritage of friends.

4 Of exactness of balance and weights; or of getting much or little.

5 And of merchants' indifferent selling; of much correction of children; and to make the side of an evil servant to bleed.

6 Sure keeping is good, where an evil wife is; and shut up, where many hands are.

7 Deliver all things in number and weight; and put all in writing that thou gives out, or receives in.

8 Be not ashamed to inform the unwise and foolish, and the extreme aged that contended with those that are young; thus shall thou be truly learned, and approved of all men living.

9 The father wakes for the daughter, when no man knows; and the care for her takes away sleep; when she is young, lest she pass away the flower of her age; and being married, lest she should be hated.

10 In her virginity, lest she should be defiled and gotten with child in her father's house; and having a husband, lest she should misbehave herself; and when she is married, lest she should be barren.

11 Keep a sure watch over a shameless daughter, lest she make thee a laughingstock to thine enemies, and a byword in the city, and a reproach among the people, and make thee ashamed before the multitude.

12 Behold not every body's beauty, and sit not in the midst of women.

13 For from garments comes a moth, and from a women wickedness.

14 Better is the churlishness (rudeness) of a man than a courteous woman, a woman, I say, which brings shame and reproach.

15 I will now remember the works of the Lord, and declare the things that I have seen; in the words of the Lord are His works.

16 The sun that gives light looks upon all things, and the work thereof is full of the glory of the Lord.

17 The Lord has not given power to the saints to declare all his marvelous works, which the Almighty Lord firmly settled, that whatsoever is, might be established for His glory.

18 He seeks out the deep, and the heart, and considers their crafty devices; for the Lord knows all that may be known, and he beholds the signs of the world.

19 He declares the things that are past, and for to come, and reveals the steps of hidden things.

20 No thought escapes Him, neither any word is hidden from Him.

21 He has garnished the excellent works of His Wisdom, and He is from everlasting to everlasting; unto Him may nothing be added, neither can He be diminished, and He has no need of any counselor.

22 Oh how desirable are all His works! And that a man may see even to a spark.

23 All these things live and remain for ever for all uses, and they are all obedient.

24 All things are double one against another; and He has made nothing imperfect.

25 One thing establishes the good or another; and who shall be filled with beholding His glory?

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach Chapter 43

1 The pride of the height, the clear firmament, the beauty of the heaven, with His glorious show.

2 The sun when it appears, declaring at his rising a marvelous instrument, the work of the Most High.

3 At noon it parches the country, and who can abide the burning heat thereof?

4 A man blowing a furnace is in works of heat, but the sun burns the mountains three times more; breathing out fiery vapors, and sending forth bright beams, it dims the eyes.

5 Great is the Lord that made it; and at his commandment runs hastily.

6 He made the moon also to serve in her season for a declaration of times, and a sign of the world.

7 From the moon is the sign of feasts, a light that decreases in her perfection.

8 The month called after her name, increasing wonderfully in her changing, being an instrument of the armies above, shining in the firmament of heaven.

9 The beauty of heaven, the glory of the stars, an ornament giving light in the highest places of the Lord.

10 At the commandment of the Holy One they will stand in their order, and never faint in their watches.

11 I look upon the rainbow, and praise Him that made it; very beautiful it is in the brightness thereof.

12 It compasses the heaven about with a glorious circle, and the hands of the Most High have bended it.

13 By His commandment He makes the snow to fall apace, and sends swiftly the lightnings of His judgment.

14 Through this the treasures are opened; and clouds fly forth as fowls.

15 By His great power He makes the clouds firm, and the hailstones are broken small.

16 At His sight the mountains are shaken, and at His will the south wind blows.

17 The noise of thunder makes the earth to tremble; so does the northern storm and the whirlwind; as birds flying he scatters the snow, and the falling down thereof is as the lighting of grasshoppers.

18 The eye marvels at the beauty of the whiteness thereof, and the heart is astonished at the raining of it.

19 The hoarfrost also as salt He pours on the earth, and being congealed, it lies on the top of sharp stakes.

20 When the cold north wind blows, and the water is congealed into ice, it abides upon every gathering together of water, and clothes the water as with a breastplate.

21 It devours the mountains, and burns the wilderness, and consumes the grass as fire.

22 A present remedy of all is a mist coming speedily, a dew coming after heat refreshes.

- 23 By His counsel He appeases the deep, and plants islands therein.
- 24 They that sail on the sea tell of the danger thereof; and when we hear it with our ears, we marvel thereat.
- 25 For therein be strange and wondrous works, variety of all kinds of beasts and whales created.
- 26 By Him the end of them has prosperous success, and by His word all things consist.
- 27 We may speak much, and yet come short; wherefore in sum, He is all.
- 28 How shall we be able to magnify Him? For He is great above all His works.
- 29 The Lord is terrible and very great, and marvelous is His power.
- 30 When ye glorify the Lord, exalt Him as much as ye can; for even yet will He far exceed; and when ye exalt Him, put forth all your strength, and be not weary; for ye can never go far enough.
- 31 Who has seen Him, that He might tell us? And who can magnify Him as He is?
- 32 There are yet hid greater things than these be, for we have seen but few of His works.
- 33 For the Lord has made all things; and to the godly has He given Wisdom.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach
Chapter 44

- 1 Let us now praise famous men, and our fathers that begat us.
- 2 The Lord has wrought great glory by them through His great power from the beginning.
- 3 Such as did bear rule in their kingdoms, men renowned for their power, giving counsel by their understanding, and declaring prophecies.
- 4 Leaders of the people by their counsels, and by their knowledge of learning meet for the people, wise and eloquent are their instructions.
- 5 Such as found out musical tunes, and recited verses in writing.
- 6 Rich men furnished with the ability, living peaceably in their habitations.
- 7 All these were honored in their generations, and were the glory of their times.
- 8 There be of them, that have left a name behind them, that their praises might be reported.
- 9 And some there be which have no memorial; who are perished, as though they had never been; and are become as though they had never been born; and their children after them.

- 10 But these were merciful men, whose righteousness has not been forgotten.
- 11 With their seed shall continuously remain a good inheritance, and their children are within the Covenant.
- 12 Their seed stand fast, and their children for their sakes.
- 13 Their seed shall remain for ever, and their glory shall not be blotted out.
- 14 Their bodies are buried in peace; but their name lives for evermore.
- 15 The people tell of their Wisdom, and the congregation will show forth their praise.
- 16 Enoch pleased the Lord, and was translated, being an example of repentance to all generations.
- 17 Noah was found perfect and righteous; in the time of wrath he was taken in exchange for the world; therefore was he left as a remnant unto the earth, when the flood came.
- 18 An everlasting Covenant was made with him, that all flesh should perish no more by the flood.
- 19 Abraham was a great father of many people; in glory was there none like unto him.
- 20 Who kept the Law of the Most High, and was in Covenant with Him; He established the Covenant in his flesh; and when he was proved, he was found faithful.
- 21 Therefore He assured him by an oath, that He would bless the nations in his seed, and that He would multiply him as the dust of the earth, and exalt his seed as the stars, and cause them to inherit from sea to sea, and from the river unto the utmost part of the land.
- 22 With Isaac did He establish likewise the blessing of all men, and the Covenant, and made it rest upon the head of Jacob. He acknowledged him in His blessing, and gave him a heritage, and divided his portions; among the twelve tribes did He part them.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach
Chapter 45

- 1 And He brought out of him a merciful man, which found favor in the sight of all flesh, even Moses, beloved of God and men, whose memorial is blessed.
- 2 He made him like to the glorious saints, and magnified him, so that his enemies stood in fear of him.
- 3 By his words He caused the wonders to cease, and He made him glorious in the sight of kings, and gave him a commandment for his people, and showed him part of His glory.
- 4 He sanctified him in his faithfulness and meekness, and chose him out of all men.

5 He made him to hear His voice, and brought him into the dark cloud, and gave him commandments before His face, even the Law of life and knowledge, that he might teach Jacob His Covenants, and Israel His judgments.

6 He exalted Aaron, a holy man like unto him, even as a brother, of the tribe of Levi.

7 An everlasting Covenant He made with him and gave him the priesthood among the people; He beautified him with comely ornaments, and clothed him with a robe of glory.

8 He put upon him perfect glory; and strengthened him with rich garments, with breeches, with a long robe, and the Ephod.

9 And He compassed him with pomegranates, and with many golden bells round about, that as he went there might be a sound, and a noise made that might be heard in the Temple, for a memorial to the children of his people.

10 With a holy garment, with gold, and blue silk, and purple, the work of the embroiderer, with a breastplate of judgment, and with Urim and Thumim.

11 With twisted scarlet, the work of the cunning workman, with precious stones graven like seals, and set in gold, the work of the jeweler, with a writing engraved for a memorial, after the number of the tribes of Israel.

12 He set a crown of gold upon the mitre, wherein was engraved Holiness, an ornament of honor, a costly work, the desires of the eyes, goodly and beautiful.

13 Before him there were none such, neither did ever any stranger put them on, but only his children and his children's children perpetually.

14 Their sacrifices shall be wholly consumed every day twice continually.

15 Moses consecrated him, and anointed him with holy oil, this was appointed unto him by an everlasting Covenant, and to his seed, so long as the heavens should remain, that they should minister unto Him, and execute the office of the priesthood, and bless the people in His name.

16 He chose him out of all men living to offer sacrifices to the Lord, incense, and a sweet savor, for a memorial, to make reconciliation for his people.

17 He gave unto him His commandments, and authority in the statutes of judgments, that he should teach Jacob the testimonies, and inform Israel in His Laws.

18 Strangers conspired together against him, and maligned him in the wilderness, even the men that were of Dathan's and Abiron's side, and the congregation of Core, with fury and wrath.

19 This the Lord saw, and it displeased him, and in His wrathful indignation were they consumed; He did wonders upon them, to consume them with the fiery flame.

20 But He made Aaron more honorable, and gave him a heritage, and divided unto him the firstfruits of the increase; especially He prepared bread in abundance.

21 For they eat of the sacrifices of the Lord, which He gave unto him and his seed.

22 Howbeit in the land of the people he had no inheritance, neither had he any portion among the people; for the Lord himself is his portion and inheritance.

23 The third in glory is Phinees the son of Eleazar, because he had zeal in the fear of the Lord, and stood up with good courage of heart; when the people were turned back, and made reconciliation for Israel.

24 Therefore was there a Covenant of peace made with him that he should be the chief of the sanctuary and of his people, and that he and his posterity should have the dignity of the priesthood for ever.

25 According to the Covenant made with David son of Jesse, of the tribe of Judah, that the inheritance of the king should be to his posterity alone; so the inheritance of Aaron should also be unto his seed.

26 God give you Wisdom in your heart to judge His people in righteousness, that their good things be not abolished, and that their glory may endure for ever.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach Chapter 46

1 Jesus (Joshua) the son of Nave (Nun) was valiant in the wars, and was the successor of Moses in prophecies, who according to his name was made great for the saving of the elect of God, and taking vengeance of the enemies that rose up against them, that he might set Israel in their inheritance.

2 how great glory got he, when he did lift up his hands, and stretched out his sword against the cities!

3 Who before him stood to it; for the Lord Himself brought His enemies unto him.

4 Did not the sun go back by His means? And was one day as long as two?

5 He called upon the Most High Lord, when the enemies pressed upon him on every side; and the Great Lord heard him.

6 And with hailstones of mighty power He made the battle to fall violently upon the nations, and in the descent of Bethhoron He destroyed them that resisted, that the nations might know all their strength, because he fought in the sight of the Lord, and he followed the Mighty One. (Josh10:11)

7 In the time of Moses also He did a work of mercy, he and Caleb the son of Jephunne, in that they withstood the congregation, and withheld the people from sin, and appeased the wicked murmuring.

8 And of six hundred thousand people on foot, they two were preserved to bring them in to the heritage, even unto the land that flowed with milk and honey.

9 The Lord gave strength also unto Caleb, which remained with him unto his old age; so that he entered upon the high places of the land, and his seed obtained it for a heritage.

10 That all the children of Israel might see that it is good to follow the Lord.

11 And concerning the judges, every one by name, whose heart went not a whoring, nor departed from the Lord, let their memory be blessed.

12 Let their bones flourish out of their place, and let the name of them that were honored be continued upon their children.

13 Samuel, the prophet of the Lord, beloved of his Lord, established a kingdom, and anointed princes over his people.

14 By the Law of the Lord he judged the congregation, and the Lord had respect unto Jacob. (Israel or Samuel?)

15 By his faithfulness he was found a true prophet, and by his word he was known to be faithful in vision.

16 He called upon the Mighty Lord, when his enemies pressed upon him on every side, when he offered the suckling lamb.

17 And the Lord thundered from heaven, and with a great noise made His voice to be heard.

18 And destroyed the ruler of the Tyrians, and all the princes of the Philistines.

19 And before his long sleep he made protestations in the sight of the Lord and His anointed, I have not taken any man's goods, so much as a shoe; and no man did accuse him.

20 And after his death he prophesied, and showed the king his end, and lifted up his voice from the earth in prophecy, to blot out the wickedness of the people,

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach Chapter 47

1 And after him rose up Nathan prophecy in the time of David.

2 As is the fat taken away from the peace offering, so was David chosen out of the children of Israel.

3 He played with lions as with kids, and with bears as with lambs.

4 Slew he not a giant, when he was yet but young? And did he not take away reproach from the people, when he lifted up his hand with a stone in the sling, and beat down the boasting of Goliath?

5 For he called upon the Most High Lord; and He gave him strength in his right hand to slay that mighty warrior, and set up the horn of His people.

6 So the people honored Him with ten thousands, and praised Him in the blessings of the Lord, in that He gave him a crown of glory.

7 For he destroyed the enemies of every side, and brought to naught the Philistines his adversaries, and brake their horn in sunder unto this day.

8 In all his works he praised the Holy One Most High with words of glory; with his whole heart he sung songs, and loved Him that made him.

9 He set singers also before the Altar; that by their voices they might make sweet melody, and daily sing praises in their songs.

10 He beautified their feasts, and set in order the solemn times until the end, that they might praise His Holy Name, and that the Temple might sound from morning.

11 The Lord took away his sins, and exalted his horn forever; He gave him a Covenant of kings, and a throne of glory in Israel.

12 After him rose up a wise son, and for his sake he dwelt at large.

13 Solomon reigned in a peacable time, and was honored; for God made all quiet round about him, that he might build a house in His Name, and prepare His sanctuary for ever.

14 How wise was thou in thy youth and, as a flood, filled with understanding!

15 Thy soul covered the whole earth, and Thou filled it with dark parables.

16 Thy name went far unto the islands; and for thy peace thou was beloved.

17 The countries marveled at thee for thy songs, and proverbs, and parables, and interpretations.

18 By the Name of the Lord God, which is called the Lord God of Israel, thou did gather gold as tin and did multiply silver as lead.

19 Thou did bow thy loins unto women, and by thy body thou was brought into subjection.

20 Thou did stain thy honor, and pollute thy seed; so that thou brought wrath upon thy children, and was grieved for thy folly.

21 So the kingdom was divided, and out of Ephraim ruled a rebellious kingdom.

22 But the Lord will never leave off his mercy, neither shall any of His works perish, neither will he abolish the posterity of His elect, and the seed of him that loves Him He will not take away; wherefore He gave a remnant unto Jacob, and out of him a root unto David.

23 Thus rested Solomon with his fathers, and of his seed he left behind him Roboam, even the foolishness of the people and one that had no understanding, who turned away the people through his counsel. There was also Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who caused Israel to sin, and showed Ephraim the way of sin.

24 And their sins were multiplied exceedingly, that they were driven out of the land.

25 For they sought out all wickedness, till the vengeance came upon them.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach
Chapter 48

1 Then stood up Elias (Elija) the prophet as fire, and his word burned like a lamp.

2 He brought sore famine upon them, and by his zeal he diminished their number.

3 By the word of the Lord he shut up the heaven, and also three times brought down fire.

4 O Elias, how was thou honored in thy wondrous deeds! And who may glory like unto thee!

5 Who did raise up a dead man from death, and his soul from the place of the dead, by the word of the Most High.

6 Who brought kings to destruction, and honorable men from their bed.

7 Who heard the rebuke of the Lord in Sinai, and in Horeb the judgment of vengeance.

8 Who anointed kings to take revenge, and prophets to succeed after him.

9 Who was taken up in a whirlwind of fire, and in a chariot of fiery horses.

10 Who was ordained for reproofs in their times, to pacify the wrath of the Lord's judgment, before it brake forth into fury, and to turn the heart of the father unto the son, and to restore the tribes of Jacob.

11 Blessed are they that saw thee, and slept in love; for we shall surely live.

12 Elias (Elija) it was, who was covered with a whirlwind; and Eliseus (Elisha) was filled with his spirit; while he lived, he was not moved with the presence of any prince, neither could any bring him into subjection.

13 No word could overcome him; and after his death his body prophesied.

14 He did wonders in his life, and at his death were his works marvelous.

15 For all this the people repented not, neither departed they from their sins, till they were spoiled and carried out of their land, and were scattered through all the earth; yet there remained a small people, and a ruler in the house of David.

16 Of whom some did that which was pleasing to God, and some multiplied sins.

17 Ezekias fortified his city, and brought in water into the midst thereof; he digged the hard rock with iron, and made wells for waters.

18 In his time Sennacherib came up, and sent Rabsaces, and lifted up his hand against Sion, and boasted proudly.

19 Then trembled their hearts and hands, and they were in pain, as women in travail.

20 But they called upon the Lord which was merciful. And stretched out their hands toward Him; and immediately the Holy One heard them out of heaven, and delivered them by the ministry of Esay (Esau).

21 He smote the host of the Assyrians, and His Angel destroyed them.

22 For Ezekias had done the things that pleased the Lord, and was strong in the ways of David his father, as Esay (Esau) the prophet, who was great and faithful in His vision, had commanded him.

23 In his time the sun went backward, and he lengthened the king's life.

24 He saw by an excellent spirit what should come to pass at the last, and he comforted them that mourned in Sion.

25 He showed what should come to pass for ever, and secret things or ever they came.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach Chapter 49

1 The remembrance of Josias is like the composition of the perfume that is made by the art of the apothecary; it is sweet as honey in all mouths, and as music at a banquet of wine.

2 He behaved himself uprightly in the conversion of the people, and took away the abominations of iniquity.

3 He directed his heart unto the Lord, and in the time of the ungodly he established the worship of God.

4 All, except David and Ezekeas and Josias, were defective; for they forsook the Law of the Most High, even the kings of Judah failed.

5 Therefore He gave their power unto others, and their glory to a strange nation.

6 They burnt the chosen city of the Sanctuary, and made the streets desolate, according to the prophecy of Jeremias. (Jeremiah)

7 For they entreated him evil, who nevertheless was a prophet, sanctified in his mother's womb, that he might root out, and afflict, and destroy; and that he might build up also, and plant.

8 It was Ezekiel who saw the glorious vision, which was shown him upon the chariot of the cherubim.

9 For he made mention of the enemies under the figure of the rain, and directed them that went right.

10 And of the twelve prophets let the memorial be blessed, and let their bones flourish again out of their place; for they comforted Jacob, and delivered them by assured hope.

11 How shall we magnify Zorobabel? Even he was as a signet of the right hand.

12 So was Jesus (Joshua) the son of Josedec (Josedeche); who in their time built the House, and set up a Holy Temple to the Lord, which was prepared for everlasting glory.

13 And among the elect was Neemias, whose renown is great, who raised up for us the walls that were fallen, and set up the gates and the bars, and raised up our ruins again.

14 But upon the earth was no man created like Enoch; for he was taken from the earth.

15 Neither was there a young man born like Joseph, a governor of his brethren, a stay of the people, whose bones were regarded of the Lord.

16 Sem (Shem) and Seth were in great honor among men, and so was Adam above every living thing in creation.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach Chapter 50

1 Simon the high priest, the son of Onias, who in his life repaired the House again, and in his days fortified the Temple.

2 And by him was built from the foundation the double height, the high fortress of the wall about the Temple.

3 In his days the cistern to receive water, being in compass as the sea, was covered with plates of brass.

4 He took care of the Temple that it should not fall, and fortified the city against besieging.

5 How was he honored in the midst of the people in his coming out of the sanctuary!

6 He was as the morning star in the midst of a cloud, and as the moon at the full.

7 As the sun shining upon the Temple of the Most High, and as the rainbow giving light in the bright clouds.

8 And as the flower of roses in the spring of the year, as lilies by the rivers of waters, and as the branches of the frankincense tree in the time of summer.

9 As fire and incense in the censer, and as a vessel of beaten gold set with all manner of precious stones.

10 And as a fair olive tree budding forth fruit, and as a cypress tree which grows up to the clouds.

11 When he put on the robe of honor, and was clothed with the perfection of glory, when he went up to the Altar, he made the garments of holiness honorable.

12 When he took the portions out of the priests' hands, he himself stood by the hearth of the Altar, compassed about, as a young cedar in Libanus; and as palm trees compassed they him round about.

13 So were all the sons of Aaron in their glory, and the oblations of the Lord in their hands, before all the congregation of Israel.

14 And finishing the service at the Altar, that he might adorn the offering of the Most High Almighty.

15 He stretched out his hand to the cup, and poured of the blood of the grape, he poured out at the foot of the Altar a sweet-smelling savor unto the Most High King of All.

16 Then shouted the sons of Aaron, and sounded the silver trumpets, and made a great noise to be heard, for a remembrance before the Most High.

17 Then all the people together hasted, and fell down to the earth upon their faces to worship their Lord God Almighty, the Most High.

18 The singers also sang praises with their voices, with great variety of sounds was there made sweet melody.

19 And the people besought the Lord, the Most High, by prayer before Him that is merciful, till the solemnity of the Lord was ended, and they had finished His service.

20 Then he went down, and lifted up his hands over the whole congregation of the children of Israel, to give the blessing of the Lord with his lips, and to rejoice in His Name.

21 And they bowed themselves down to worship the second time, that they might receive a blessing from the Most High.

22 Now therefore bless ye the God of All, which only does wondrous things every where, which exalts our days from the womb, and deals with us according to His mercy.

23 He grants us joyfulness of heart, and that peace may be in our days in Israel for ever.

24 That he would confirm his mercy with us, and deliver us at His time!

25 There be two manner of nations which my heart abhors, and the third is no nation.

26 They that sit upon the mountain of Samaria, and they that dwell among the Philistines, and that foolish people that dwell in Sichem (Shechem).

27 Jesus (Joshua) the son of Sirach of Jerusalem has written in this book the instruction of understanding and knowledge, who out of his heart poured forth Wisdom.

28 Blessed is he that shall be exercised in these things; and he that lays them up in his heart shall become wise.

29 For if he do them, he shall be strong to all things; for the light of the Lord leads him, who gives Wisdom to the godly. Blessed be the Name of the Lord for ever. Amen, Amen.

Ecclesiastes Book by Sirach
Chapter 51

1 I will thank Thee, O Lord and King, and praise Thee, O God my Savior; I do give praise unto Thy Name.

2 For Thou art my defender and helper, and has preserved my body from destruction, and from the snare of the slanderous tongue, and from the lips that forge lies, and has been mine helper against mine adversaries.

3 And has delivered me, according to the multitude of Thy mercies and greatness of Thy Name, from the teeth of them that were ready to devour me, and out of the hands of such as sought after my life, and from the manifold afflictions which I had.

4 From the choking of fire on every side, and from the midst of the fire which I kindled not.

5 From the depth of the belly of hell, from an unclean tongue, and from lying words.

6 By accusation to the king from an unrighteous tongue my soul drew near even to death, my life was near to the hell beneath.

7 They compassed me on every side, and there was no man to help me; I looked for the succor of men, but there was none.

8 Then thought I upon Thy mercy, O Lord, and upon Thy acts of old, how Thou delivers such as wait for Thee, and saves them out of the hands of the enemies.

9 Then I lifted up my supplications from the earth, and prayed for deliverance from death.

10 I called upon the Lord, the Father of my lord, that He would not leave me in the days of my trouble, and in the time of the proud, when there was no help.

11 I will praise Thy Name continually, and will sing praises with thanksgiving; and so my prayer was heard.

12 For Thou saved me from destruction, and delivered me from the evil time; therefore will I give thanks, and praise Thee, and bless Thy Name, O Lord.

13 When I was yet young, or ever I went abroad, I desired Wisdom openly in my prayer.

14 I prayed for Her before the Temple, and will seek Her out even to the end.

15 Even from the flower till the grape was ripe has my heart delighted in Her; my foot went the right way, from my youth up, sought I after Her.

16 I bowed down mine ear a little, and received Her, and gat (got?) much learning.

17 I profited therein, therefore will I ascribe glory unto Him that gives me Wisdom.

18 For I purposed to do after Her, and earnestly I followed that which is good; so shall I not be confounded.

19 My soul has wrestled with Her, and in my doings I was exact; I stretched forth my hands to the heaven above, and bewailed my ignorances of Her.

20 I directed my soul unto Her, and I found Her in pureness; I have had my heart joined with Her from the beginning, therefore shall I not be forsaken.

21 My heart was troubled in seeking Her; therefore have I gotten a good possession.

22 The Lord has given me a tongue for my reward, and I will praise Him therewith.

23 Draw near unto me, ye unlearned, and dwell in the house of learning.

24 Wherefore are ye slow, and what say ye to these things, seeing your souls are very thirsty?

25 I opened my mouth, and said; Buy Her for yourselves without money.

26 Put your neck under the yoke, and let your soul receive the instruction; She is hard at hand to find.

27 Behold with your eyes, how that I have but little labor, and have gotten unto me much rest.

28 Get learning with a great sum of money, and get much gold by Her.

29 Let your soul rejoice in His mercy, and be not ashamed of His praise.

30 Work your work betimes, and in His time He will give you your reward.

Published by Muralori in 1740 from a manuscript in the Ambrosian Library at Milan, though belonging originally to the great Irish monastery of Bobbio.

It was found in a volume of Latin fragments and translations which dates apparently from the eighth century. But the fragment itself was evidently copied from a manuscript of much higher antiquity; for it was mutilated both at the beginning and end before it was transcribed. The writer claims to be a contemporary of Pius, who was bishop of Rome in the middle of the second century; so that its date may be fixed with tolerable certainty between A.D. 160 and 170* (Westcott, The Bible in the Church (2nd ed.), p. 112).

The [Oxford Scholar Versions](#) in their own words: **(This is why Theorybin uses KJV)**
[Have modified and altered the text to a considerable extent for dogmatic reasons. These alterations are in a Christian direction; direct references to sacrifices have been largely eliminated, and even allusions to words of Jesus introduced.](#)