

Chapter 12

Job sheweth the knowlege, which his freinds much boaft of, to be the common knowne doctrin of Gods feruantes. He more truly, and more profoundly discourfeth of Gods powre and wifdome, ftill defending his owne innocencie in respect of great finnes.

But Job anfwering, fayd: ² Are you then men alone, & shal wifedome die with you? ³ I alfo haue a hart euen as you, neither am I inferior to you: for who is ignorãt of thefe things, which you know? ⁴ He that is mocked of his frend as I, shal inuocate God & he wil heare him. For the ^afimplicities of the iuft man is fcorned. ⁵ The lampe contemned in the cogitations of the riche, is prepared to the time appointed. ⁶ The tabernacles of robbers abound, & they prouoke God bouldly, wheras he hath geuen al thinges into their handes. ⁷ For aske the beaftes, and they shal teach thee: and the foules of the ayre, and they shal tel thee. ⁸ Speake to the earth, and it shal anfwer thee, and the fishes of the fea shal tel. ⁹ Who is ignorant that the hand of our Lord hath made al thefe things? ¹⁰ In whofe hand is the foule of euerie liuing thing, and the fpirit of al the flesh of man. ¹¹ Doth not the eare difcerne wordes, and the iawes of him that eateth, the taft? ¹² In the ancientes is wifedom, and in long time prudence. ¹³ With him is wifedom and ftrength, he hath counfel and vnderftanding. ¹⁴ If he shal deftroy, there is no man that can build: if he shut vp a man, there is none that can open. ¹⁵ If he hold in the waters, al things shal be dried: and if he fend them forth, they shal ouerthrow the earth. ¹⁶ With him is ftrength and wifedom: he knoweth both the deceiuer, & him that is

^a God fuffereth his fimple true meaning feruantes to be fcorned for the time, but afterward the wicked shal be forced to confefse, that thofe whom they derided are worthily in honour before God. *Sap. 5. v. 3.*

deceiued. ¹⁷ He bringeth ^a)counfelers to a folish end, and iudges to aftonishment. ¹⁸ He loofeth the belt of kings, and girdeth their reines with a corde. ¹⁹ He leadeth away Prieftes without glorie, and fupplanteth the great men. ²⁰ Changing the lippe of the true, and taking away the doctrine of the ancientes. ²¹ He powreth out contempt vpon princes, releeuing them that had bene oppreffed. ²² Who reueleth profound things out of darkeneffe, and bringeth forth the shadow of death into light. ²³ Who multiplieth nations, and deftroyeth them, and reftoreth the deftroyed whole agayne. ²⁴ Who changeth the hart of the princes of the people of the earth, and deceiueth them, that they may goe in vayne where is no paffage. ²⁵ They shal grope as in the darke, and not in the light, and he shal make them goe amis as druncken men.

^a Craftie plotters of deuifes at laft by Gods iuft punifhement commit fo great abfurdities, that the meanest may fee their follie.