

## Chapter 28

*The maruelous workes of God, the author of nature, shew his powre and wifdome, 12. and that true riches confift not in temporal creatures, but in wifdome, 28. and feare of God.*

**S**iluer hath <sup>a)</sup>beginnings of her vaines, and gold hath a place, where in it is molten. <sup>2</sup> Yron is taken out of the earth, and ftone refolued with heate, is turned into braffe. <sup>3</sup> He hath fet a time for darkeneffe, and the end of al thinges he confidereth, the ftone alfo of darkeneffe, and the shadow of death. <sup>4</sup> The <sup>b)</sup>torrent diuideth from the pilgrime people, them whom the foote of the needie man hath forgotten, and to whom there is no way. <sup>5</sup> The land, out of which bread grew in his place, is deftroyed with fire. <sup>6</sup> The place of the fapphire the ftones thereof, and the cloddes of it gold. <sup>7</sup> The bird hath not knowen the path, neither hath the eie of the vultur beheld it. <sup>8</sup> The children of merchantes haue not troden it, neither hath the lioneffe paffed by it. <sup>9</sup> He hath ftretched forth his hand to the flint, he hath ouerthrowen mountaines from the rootes. <sup>10</sup> In the rockes he hath cut out riuers, and his eie hath feene euerie pretious thing. <sup>11</sup> The deptes alfo of riuers he hath fearched, & hid thinges he hath brought forth to light. <sup>12</sup> But where is wifdome to be found, and what is the place of vnderftanding? <sup>13</sup> Man knoweth not the price therof, <sup>c)</sup>neither is it found in the land of them that liue pleafently. <sup>14</sup> The depth fayth: It is not in me. And the fea fpeaketh: It is not with me. <sup>15</sup> The fineft gold fhall not be geuen for it, neither fhall filuer be weyed in the change therof. <sup>16</sup> It fhall not be compared with

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<sup>a</sup> By thefe more precious and rare creatures, men ought to confider the creator and fo not fet their reft in them, but in him, which is true wifdome.

<sup>b</sup> Sudaine headie waters burfting out do change the wayes and paffages of men.

<sup>c</sup> True wifdom is not in natural thinges, but in fupernatural vertues.

the died colours of India, nor with Sardonyx the moft pretious ftone, or with the Sapphire. <sup>17</sup> Gold or glaffe fhall not be equal to it, neither fhall veffels of gold be changed for it. <sup>18</sup> High and eminent thinges fhall not be mentioned in comparifon of it: and wifedom is drawn out of fecrete places. <sup>19</sup> The topazius of Æthiopia fhall not be equal to it, neither fhall it be compared to the cleaneft dying. <sup>20</sup> From whence then cometh wifedom? and what is the place of vnderftanding? <sup>21</sup> It is hid from the eies of al liuing, the foules of the ayre alfo know it not. <sup>22</sup> Perdition and death haue fayd: With our eares we haue heard the fame therof. <sup>23</sup> God vnderftandeth the way of it, and he knoweth the place therof. <sup>24</sup> For he beholdeth the endes of the world: & looketh on al thinges that are vnder heauen. <sup>25</sup> Who made a poife to the windes, and weyed the waters in a meafure. <sup>26</sup> When he gaue a lawe to the raynes, and a way to the founding fformes. <sup>27</sup> Then he faw it, and declared, and prepared and fearched it. <sup>28</sup> And he fayd to man: Behold <sup>a</sup>)the feare of our Lord, that is wifedom: and to <sup>b</sup>)depart from euil, vnderftanding.

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<sup>a</sup> VVhen man hath confidered Gods workes, his dutie is to feare God,

<sup>b</sup> then to depart from euil and do good.