

Chapter 05

In the general iudgement, the wicked feing the iuft, whom they had contemned, to be in great honour, shal bewaile their owne miferie, 9. confidering that their pleafure was short, 16. and the ioy of the bleffed shal be for euer. 18. God wil arme himfelf, and al creatures, to punish the impious.

Chap. 3. v. 2.

Pro. 3. v. 19.

Then shal the iuft ftand in great conftancie againft thofe that haue afflicted them, and ^{a)}taken away their labours. ² They feing shal be trubled with horrible feare, and shal meruel at the fodennes of vnexpected faluation, ³ faying within themfelues, ^{b)}repenting, and fighing for anguish of fpirit: Thefe are they, whom we had fometime in derifion, and in a parable of reproch. ⁴ We fenfleffe eftemed their life madnes, and their end without honour. ⁵ Behold how they are counted among the children of God, and their lot is among the faints. ⁶ We therfore haue erred from the way of truth, and the light of iuftice hath not shined to vs, and the funne of vnderftanding rofe not to vs. ⁷ We are weried in the way of iniquitie and perdition, and haue walked hard wayes, but the way of our Lord we haue not knowen. ⁸ What hath pride profited vs? or what commoditie hath the vaunting of riches brought to vs? ⁹ Al thofe thinges are paffed away as a shadow, and as a meffenger running before, ¹⁰ and as a shippe, that paffeth through the furing waters: wherof, when it is pafte, the trace can not be found, nor the path of that shippes keele in the waues: ¹¹ or as a bird, that flyeth through in the ayre, of which there is no token can be found of her paffage, but only a found of the winges

^a VVicked men in their falfe conceipt iudge the trauels of the iuft to be vaine & fructles.

^b Repentance of the damned is only for the loffe & paine whereinto they are fallen not of loue towards God, or vertue, nor of hate towards finne, & therfore is fructles bringing no comforte nor helpe at al, but euerlafting torment and anguifh of mind.

beating the light winde: and by vehemence of going cutting the ayre, mouing the winges she is flowen through, and afterward there is no figne found of her way: ¹² or as when an arrow is shotte forth to a fette marke, the diuided ayre is forthwith clofed in itself againe, fo that the paffage therof is not knowen: ¹³ fo we alfo being borne forthwith ceaſed to be: and of vertue certes haue bene able to ſhew no figne: but in our naughtines we are confumed. ¹⁴ Such thinges ^{a)}ſayd they in hel, which finned: ¹⁵ becauſe the hope of the impious is as duſt, which is taken away with the winde: and as a thinne froth, which is diſperſed by the ſtorme: and as ſmoke that is ſcattered abroad by the winde: and as the memorie of a gheſt of one day that paſſeth. ¹⁶ But the iuſt ſhall liue for euer, and their reward is with our Lord, and cogitation of them with the Higheſt. ¹⁷ Therefore ſhall they receiue a kingdom of honour, & a crowne of beautie at the hand of our Lord: becauſe with his right hand he wil couer them, and with his holie arme defend them. ¹⁸ And ^{b)}his zeale wil take armour, and he wil arme the creature to the reuenge of the enemies. ¹⁹ He wil put on iuſtice for a breſtplate, & wil take ſincere iudgement for an helmet: ²⁰ He wil take equitie for an inuincible ſhilde: ²¹ and He wil ſharpen fierce wrath for a ſpeare, and the round world ſhall fight with Him againſt the ſenſleſſe. ²² The ſhottes of lightnings ſhall goe directly, & as it were from a bow of the clouds wel bent they ſhall be caſt forth, and ſhall light on a certaine place. ²³ And from rocked wrath ſhall thicke haile ſtones be caſt, the water of the ſea ſhall rage againſt them, and the riuers ſhall runne together roughly. ²⁴ A ſpirit of powre ſhall ſtand againſt them, and as a hurlewinde ſhall diuide them: and their iniquitie ſhall bring al the land to a deſert, and naughtines ſhall ouerthrow the feates of the mightie.

^a For the certaintie of thinges that ſhall be. Prophetes do very often ſpeake in the pretence, of thinges to come as if they vvere already paſt.

^b As the ioy of the bleſſed, fo contrariwife the miſerie of the damned is meruelous great, & for euer vnchangeable.