

## Chapter 08

*Wifdom excelleng al thinges, that can be defired, 9. is worthely preferred as the caufe of much eftimation, 13. and of immortal glorie, 16. without moleftation. 21. Al which is Gods gift.*

**S**he <sup>a)</sup>reacheth therfore from end vnto end mightely, and difpofeth al thinges fwetely. <sup>2</sup> Her haue I loued, and haue fought her out from my youth, and haue fought to take her for my fpoufe, and I was made a louer of her beautie. <sup>3</sup> She glorifieth her nobilitie, hauing confociation with God: yea and the Lord of al hath loued her. <sup>4</sup> For she is the miftrefse of the difcipline of God, & the choofer of his workes. <sup>5</sup> And if riches be defired in life, what is richer then wifdom, which worketh al thinges? <sup>6</sup> And if vnderftanding doe worke: who is the worker of thofe things that are, more then she? <sup>7</sup> And if a man loue iuftice: her labours haue great vertues: for she teacheth fobrietie, and prudence, and iuftice, and ftrengh, then the which nothing is more profitable in life to men. <sup>8</sup> And if a man defire multitude of knowlege: *3. Reg. 3.* ſhe knoweth thinges paft, & coniectureth of thinges to come: ſhe knoweth the fubtilities of wordes, and the folution of arguments: ſhe knoweth finnes and wonders before they be done, and the euentes of times and ages. <sup>9</sup> *Prou. 3.* <sup>b)</sup>I purpofed therfore to bring her to me to liue together: knowing that ſhe wil communicate vnto me of good thinges, and wil be a comfort of my cogitation & tedioufnes. <sup>10</sup> I ſhal haue for her fake <sup>c)</sup>glorie with the multitudes, and honour with the ancient being yong: <sup>11</sup> and I ſhal be found sharpe in iudgement, and

<sup>a</sup> God, the increated wifdom is infinite and wifdom created is alfo moft excellent amongft Gods giftes.

<sup>b</sup> This is alfo the ſpeech of Salomon, recited by the writer of this booke.

<sup>c</sup> Of Salomons wifdom, riches, glorie & renowned fame not only the bookes of Kinges & Paralipomenon, but alfo our Sauour doth witnes. *Mat. 6. & 12.*

in the fight of the mightie I shal be meruelous, and the faces of princes wil meruel at me. <sup>12</sup> Holding my peace they shal expect me, and whiles I speake manie wordes, they shal lay their hands on their mouth. <sup>13</sup> Moreouer by her I shal haue <sup>a</sup>)immortalitie: and I shal leaue an eternal memorie to them, that shal be after me. <sup>14</sup> I shal difpose peoples: and nations shal be fubiect to me. <sup>15</sup> Horrible kings hearing shal feare me: in the multitude I shal feme good, and in battel ftrong. <sup>16</sup> Entring into my houle, I shal reft with her: for her conuerfation hath no bitternes, nor her companie tedioufnes, but ioy and gladneffe. <sup>17</sup> Thinking thefe thinges with myfelfe, and recording in my hart, that <sup>b</sup>)immortalitie is in the kindred of wifedom, <sup>18</sup> and good delectation in her frendship, and in the workes of her handes honeftie without defect, and wifdom in the difputation of her talke, and glorie in the communication of her wordes: I went about feeking, that I might take her to me. <sup>19</sup> And I was a wittie childe, and had gotten a good foule. <sup>20</sup> And wheras I was more good, I came to <sup>c</sup>)a bodie vndefiled. <sup>21</sup> And as I knew that I could not otherwife be continent, vnleffe God gaue it, this verie thing alfo was wifdom, to know whofe this gift was: I went to our Lord, and befought him, and faid from my whole hart:

---

<sup>a</sup> It is not certaine that Salomon hath immortal glorie, but rather by *immortalitie* is here vnderftood that his glorious fame remaineth to the end of this world.

<sup>b</sup> Neuertheles wifdom of her part, geueth life and glorie euerlafting, to al that perfeuere to the end of this life.

<sup>c</sup> It is certaine that Salomon was fometime innocent and holie, but was peruerted by women. *3. Reg. 11.*