

Chapter 09

A prayer (made by Salomon) for wifdom, 9. wherby Superiors are able to gouerne: 13. which by only humane wifdom, they can not rightly performe.

3. *Reg. 3.*
v. 9. 12.

God of my fathers, and Lord of mercie, which madeft al thinges with thy word, ² and by thy wifdom didft appoint man, that he should haue dominion of the creature, that was made by thee, ³ that he should difpofe the round world in equitie and iuftice, and execute iudgement in direction of hart: ⁴ geue me wifdom the affiftant of thy feates, and repel me not from thy children: ⁵ becaufe I am thy feruant, and the fonne of thy handmaide, a weake man, and of fmal time, and leffe to the vnderftanding of iudgement and lawes. ⁶ And if one be perfect among the children of men, and thy wifdom be abfent from him, he fhall be counted for nothing. ⁷ ^{a)}Thou haft chofen me king to thy people, and iudge of thy fonnes and daughters: ⁸ and badft me build a temple in thy holie mount, and an altar in the citie of thy habitation, a fimilitude of thy holie tabernacle, which thou didft prepare from the beginning: ⁹ and ^{b)}thy wifdom with thee, which knew thy workes, which then alfo was prefent when thou madeft the round world, and knew what was pleafing to thyne eyes, and what was direct in thy precepts. ¹⁰ ^{c)}Send her from thy holy heauens, and from the feate of thy greatnes, that she may be with me, and may labour with me, that I may know what is acceptable with thee: ¹¹ for she knoweth al thinges, & vnderftandeth, and fhall conduct me in my workes foberly, & fhall keepe me with her might. ¹² And my workes fhall be acceptable, and I fhall gouerne thy people iuftly, and fhall be worthie

1. *Paral. 28.*
v. 5.
2. *Par. 1. v. 9.*

Prou. 8. v. 22.

^a Here againe it is euident, that the Auctor reporteth Salomons fpeeches.

^b VVifdom increated is with God, yea is God him felfe.

^c VVifdom vvhich is geuen to men procedeth from God as a gift created.

of the feates of my father. ¹³ For ^{a)}who of men is able to know the counfel of God? or who can thinke what God wil? ¹⁴ For the cogitations of mortal men be fearful, and our prouidences vncertaine. ¹⁵ For the bodie, that is corrupted burdeneth the foule, and the earthlie habitation preffeth downe the vnderftanding that thinketh manie thinges. ¹⁶ And we doe hardly coniecture the thinges that are in the earth: and the thinges that are in fight, we finde with labour. But the thinges that are in the heauens who shal fearch out? ¹⁷ And thy fenfe who shal know, vnles thou geue wifdom, and fend thy holie fpirit from on high: ¹⁸ and fo the pathes of them, that are on the earth may be corrected, and men lerne the thinges that pleafe thee? ¹⁹ For by wifdom they were healed, whofoeuer haue pleafed thee ô Lord from the begynning.

^a Mans wifdom vvithout fpecial wifdom from God is not fufficient to gouerne ourfelues, much leffe others.