

DOM OF JESUS THE SON OF SIRACH, OR ECCLESIASTI



# Contents



THE WISDOM OF JESUS THE SON  
OF SIRACH,  
OR  
ECCLESIASTICUS.

The Prologue of the Wisdom of Jesus the Son of Sirach.

**W** HEREAS many and great things have been delivered unto us by the law and the prophets, and by the others that have followed in their steps, for the which things we must give Israel the praise of instruction and wisdom; and since not only the readers must needs become skilful themselves, but also they that love learning must be able to profit them which are without, both by speaking and writing; my grandfather Jesus, having much given himself to the reading of the law, and the prophets, and the other books of our fathers, and having gained great familiarity therein, was drawn on also himself to write somewhat pertaining to instruction and wisdom; in order that those who love learning, and are addicted to these things, might make progress much more by living according to the law. Ye are intreated therefore to read with favour and attention, and to pardon us, if in any parts of what we have laboured to interpret, we may seem to fail in some of the phrases. For things originally spoken in Hebrew have not the same force in them, when they are translated into another tongue: and not only these, but the law itself, and the prophecies, and the rest of the books, have no small difference, when they are spoken in their original language. For having come into Egypt in the eight and thirtieth year of Energetes the king, and having continued there some time, I found <sup>1</sup> a copy affording no small instruction. I thought it therefore most necessary for me to apply some diligence and travail to interpret this book; applying indeed much watchfulness and skill in that space of time to bring the book to an end, and set it forth for them also, who in the land of their sojourning are desirous to learn, fashioning their manners beforehand, so as to live according to the law.

1All wisdom cometh from the Lord,

**A** nd is with him for ever.

2The sand of the seas, and the drops of rain,

**A** nd the days of eternity, who shall number?

3The height of the heaven, and the breadth of the earth,

**A** nd the deep, and wisdom, who shall search them out?

4Wisdom hath been created before all things,

**A** nd the understanding of prudence from everlasting. <sup>5</sup> <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>+ 1:0 Or, a like work The word is of very doubtful meaning.

<sup>2</sup>+ 1:5 Verses 5 and 7 are omitted by the best authorities

6To whom hath the root of wisdom been revealed?

A nd who hath known her shrewd counsels? <sup>7</sup> <sup>3</sup>

8There is one wise, greatly to be feared,

T he Lord sitting upon his throne:

9He created her,

A nd saw, and numbered her,

A nd poured her out upon all his works.

10She is with all flesh according to his gift;

A nd he gave her freely to them that love him.

11The fear of the Lord is glory, and exultation,

A nd gladness, and a crown of rejoicing.

12The fear of the Lord shall delight the heart,

A nd shall give gladness, and joy, and length of days.

13Whoso feareth the Lord, it shall go well with him at the last,

A nd in the day of his death he shall be blessed.

14To fear the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;

A nd it was created together with the faithful in the womb.

15With men she <sup>4</sup> laid an eternal foundation;

A nd with their seed shall she be had in trust.

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<sup>3</sup>+ 1:7 Verses 5 and 7 are omitted by the best authorities

<sup>4</sup>+ 1:15 Gr. nested.