



HE words of Koheletha son of David, king in Jerusalem.

² Utter futility! —said Koheleth— Utter futility! All is futile!

³ What real value is there for a man In all the gains^b he makes beneath the sun?

4 One generation goes, another comes, But the earth remains the same forever.

⁵ The sun rises, and the sun sets—And glides⁶ back to where it rises.

Southward blowing,
 Turning northward,
 Ever turning blows the wind;
 On its rounds the wind returns.

All streams flow into the sea,
 Yet the sea is never full;
 To the place [from] which they flow
 The streams flow back again.^a

8 All such things are wearisome:
No man can ever state them;
The eye never has enough of seeing,
Nor the ear enough of hearing.

Only that shall happen Which has happened, Only that occur Which has occurred; There is nothing new Beneath the sun!

¹⁰Sometimes there is a phenomenon of which they say, "Look, this one is new!"—it occurred long since, in ages that went by before us. ¹¹The earlier ones are not re-

JUTP ecclesiastes

ו דָבְרֵי לְהֵלֶת בֶּן־דָּוֹד מֶלֶדְּ 2 בִּירִוּשֶׁלֵם: הַבַּל הַבָּלִים אַמֵּר לְהַׁלֶת הַבָּל הַבָּלִים פ הפלהבל: מַה־יִתְרוֹן לֵאָבֶם בַּלַל־עַמָּלוֹ שֶׁיַצְמָלֹל מְחַת 4 הַשֶּׁמֶש: קּוֹר הֹלֵקְיֹּ וְרָוֹר בָּא זְרָאֶרֶץ לְעוֹלֵם עֹמֶדֶת: וְזָרְח הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ וּבָא הַשָּׁמֶשׁ וְאֶּלֹ־ מָקוֹמוֹ שׁוֹאֵף זוֹרֶתַ הְוּא שֵׁם: 6 הוֹלֵהְ אֶל־דָּרוֹם וְסוֹבֵב אֶל־ צָפָון סוֹבֵב ו סֹבַב הוֹלֵף הָרֹּוּחַ וְעַל־סְבִיבֹתֵיוּ שֵׁב ז הָרְוּתֵ: כָּל־הַנְּחָלִים הְּלְבֵים אֶל־הַיָּם וְהַיָּם אֵיעֵוּ מָלֵא אַל־מָלוֹם שֻׁהַנִּחָלִים הֹלְבִים הַם שָׁבֵים לָלֵכֶת: 8 כַּל־הַדְּבָרֵים יְנֵעִים לְאֹד יוּכַל אָישׁ לִדַבֵּר לְא־תִּשְׂבַע עַיָּן לְרָאוֹת וִלְא־תִּמָּלֵא אֹזֵן מַת־שֵׁהָנָה הָוּא פ מַשְּׁמָעַ: שֵׁיָהָיָה וּלֵה־שֵׁנַעַשָּׁה שֶׁיִנְעֶהֵה וְאָין בָּל־חָדֶשׁ מַחַת 10 הַשְּׁמֶשׁ: יַשׁ דְבֶּר שֶׁיֹּאמָר רָאַה־זֶה חָבָשׁ הֻוּא כְּבָר הָיָהַ לִעְלָּמִים אֲשֶׁר הָיָה מִלְפָּנִינוּ: וואין וְכְרוֹן לֶרֵאשׁנִים וְנַׁם לאחרנים שיהיו לא־יהיה לַהֶם זְבָּרוֹן עָם

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H. L. Ginsl Harvard, 19 Bible, New

^a Probably "the Assembler," i.e. of hearers or of sayings; cf. 12. 9-11

^b So Rashbam. The Heb 'amal usually has this sense in Koheleth; cf. Psalm 105.44

c So Targum; cf. Bereshith Rabbah on Gen. 1.17

d According to popular belief, through tunnels; so Targum and Rashi

SIASTES

9 נֿמַּעִתּי לִי כְּרָמְ וּנּוֹנִת וּפּֿנַבַעֹּם 6 עץ כָּל־פָּרִי בַרבות מִים י ז יער צומת ז אַבָּרִים וּשָׁפָּוֹ תוה לו זה מנ הַרְבָּה הַיָה י 8 לְפַנֵי בִּירְוּשָׁלֶ וַם־בָּסֶף תַּלָּב וָהַמְּדִינָוֹת עַלְּ וֹשֶׁרְוֹת וֹתַעֲּתְּי 9 שָׁרַה וִשְׁרָו וָהוֹסֶׁפָתִי מִבֶּ בַּירָוּשֶׁלֶם אָף 10 לי: וַבֹל אַשֵׁוּ אַצַלתי את־לבי מַנַּ לבי שַּׁמֶחַ מִנ הָיָהַ חֶלָּאֵי וו ופניתי אַנִי בָּו יָדַי וּבֶעָמָל זֵי וָהָנֵה הַכָּל דֶּ וָאָין יִתְרְוֹן 12 ופניתי אַנְי וְהָוֹלֵלְוֹת וְכִּ הָאָרָם שֵׁיָבוֹ אַת אַשֶּׁר 13 וַרָאֵיתִי אָּוּ לַחָּכְמֶהּ בּיתִרוּן הָאַ 14 בֿעַכָּם עֵינְיָוּ בַּרְשָׁרְ הוֹלֵן שָׁמִּקְרֶה אֶ

membered; so too those that will occur later "-will no more be remembered than-" those that will occur at the very end.

¹²I, Koheleth, was king in Jerusalem over Israel. ¹³I set my mind to study and to probe with wisdom all that happens under the sun. —An unhappy business, that, which God gave men to be concerned with! ¹⁴I observed all the happenings beneath the sun, and I found that all is futile and pursuit of wind:

¹⁵ A twisted thing that cannot be made straight,

A lack that cannot be made good.

richer and wiser than any that ruled before me over Jerusalem, and my mind has zeal-ously absorbed wisdom and learning." ¹⁷ And so I set my mind to appraise wisdom and to appraise madness and folly. And I learned—that this too was pursuit of wind: ¹⁸ For as wisdom grows, vexation grows;

To increase learning is to increase heartache.

2 I said to myself, "Come, I will treat you to merriment. Taste mirth!" That too, I found, was futile.

Of revelry I said, "It's mad!" Of merriment, "What good is that?"

³I ventured to tempt my flesh with wine and to grasp folly, while letting my mind direct with wisdom, to the end that I might learn which of the two was better for men to practice in their few days of life under heaven. ⁴I multiplied my possessions. I built myself houses and I planted vineyards. ecclesiastes

12 לֶאַחֲרֹנֶה: אֲנִי לֹהֶלֶת הָיִיתִי בֶּלֶדְ עַל־יִשְּׂרָאֵל בִּירְוּשְׁלְם: 18 וָנָתַתִּי אֶת־לְבִּי לְּדְרַוֹשׁ וֹלְתוּרָ בַּחָּכְמָה עֵנֶל בָּל־אָשֶׁר וַעֲשֶׂה הַחָת הַשְּׁמֵיִם הָוּא וֹ ענון לִע נְתַּן אֱלֹהֵים לִבְנֵי 14 הַאָּרֶם לַעֲנִוֹת בְּוֹ: רָאִּיתִיּ אַת־כַּל־הַמַּצִשִּׁים פַּחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ וְהִנֵּה הַכְּּל הֶבֶל 15 וּרְעָוּת רְוּחַ: מְעָוּה לְאִ־יוּכַל לִתְאָן וְחֶסְרָוֹן לְאֹ־יוּבְּל -16 לְהַמְּנְוֹת: דְבַּּרְתִּי אֲנֵי עִם לִבּי לֵאמֹר אֲנִי הַנֵּה הִנְּהַלְתִּי וְהוֹסַפְּתִּי חָכְמָה עֵּל כָּל־ אָשֶׁר־הָינֶהלְפָנַיְעַל־יְרְוּשָׁלֶחִ וְלַבֶּי נָאָה הַרְבָּה חָכְמָה זוּ וַדְעַת: וַאֶּהְנַה לִבִּי לְדַעַת חָבְבָּיה וְדַעַת הְלֵלְוֹת וְשִּׁבְלֵוּת יַדַעתי שַנַם־זָה הָוֹא רַעְיִוֹן 18 לוּעוֹ: בַּּי בְּלָב חָכְמֶה וָב־ קַעָם וְיוֹסְיף דַעַת יוֹסְיף : מַבְאָוֹב

^{*&}quot;Lit. "will not be remembered like . . .". For 'im meaning "like," cf. Eccles. 2.16; 7.11; Job 9.26

Lit "tending," from root ra'ah "to shepherd"

 ${}^{5}\mathrm{I}$ laid out gardens and groves, in which I planted every kind of fruit tree. 6I constructed pools of water, enough to irrigate a forest shooting up with trees. 7I bought male and female slaves, and I acquired stewards. I also acquired more cattle, both herds and flocks, than all who were before me in Jerusalem. 8I further amassed silver and gold and treasures of kings and provinces; and I got myself male and female singers, as well as the luxuries of commonerscoffersa and coffers of them. 9Thus, I gained more wealth than anyone before me in Jerusalem. In addition, my wisdom remained with me:10I withheld from my eyes nothing they asked for, and denied myself no enjoyment; rather, I got enjoyment out of b all my wealth. And that was all I got out of my wealth.

11 Then my thoughts turned to all the fortune my hands had built up, to the wealth I had acquired and won—and oh, it was all futile and pursuit of wind; there was no real value under the sun! 12 °For what will the man be like who will succeed ^a-the one who is ruling-^a over what was built up long ago?

My thoughts also turned to appraising wisdom and madness and folly. ¹³I found that

Wisdom is superior to folly
As light is superior to darkness;

14 A wise man has his eyes in his head,
Whereas a fool walks in darkness.

But I also realized that the same fate awaits

ecclesiastes

ז נָשְׂעִתִּי לִי בְּרָמִים: עָשִׁיתִי לִי נּנּוֹת וַפַּנְדַּסֵים וְנָמֵּעְתִּי בְּחֵם פּ עֵץ בָּל־בֵּרִי: עַשִּׁיתִי לִי בַּרֶבְוֹת מֵיִם לְהַשָּׁקוֹת מֵהֶם ז וַעָר צוֹמֵחַ עַצִּים: כּוֹנִיתִי עַבַרִים וּשָׁפַּחוֹת וּבְנֵי־בַיִת הָיָה לֵי נַם מִקְנֵה בָקָּר וָצָּאוֹ הַרבָּה הַיָּה לִּי מִבָּּל שֶׁהְיוּ 8 לְבָנֵי בִּירִוּשָׁלֶם: בָּנַסְתִּי לִיׁ נַם־בָּסֶף וְזָהָב וּסְנֻלֵּת מְלָבִים וְהַמְּדִינְוֹת עָשָּׁיתִי לִּי שָׁרֵים וְשָׁרוֹת וְתַעֲנָוֹת בְּנֵי הָאָדֶם 9 שַׁרָּה וִשְׁרִוֹת: וִנְּדַלְתִּי וָהוֹסַׁפִּתִּי מִכָּל שֵׁהָיָה לְפָנִי בַּירִוּשֶׁלֶם אַרְּ חָכְטָתִי עֲמְדָה 10 לֵי: וָכֹל אֲשֵׁר שָׁאֲלָוּ עִינֵי לְא אָצֵלְתִּי מָהֶם לְא־מָנִעְתִּי אָת־לְבָּׁי מִכָּל־שָּׁמִחָה בִּי־ לְבֶּי שָׁמֵׁחַ מִבְּל־עֲמָלִי וְזָה־ הָיָה חֶלְקִי מִבָּל־עֲמָלֵי: 11 ופָניַתִי אֲנִי בְּכָל־מַעֲשֵׁי שֵׁעִשִׁי יָדִׁי וּבֶעָמֶל שֶׁעָמַלְתִּי לַעֲשְׂוֹת וְהָנֵּה הַבְּל הָבֶל וּרְעַוּת רוּחַ יָאָין יִתְרָוֹן מְחַת הַשֶּׁבֶּוֹשׁ: 12 וּפַנֵיתִי אֵנִי לִרְאִוֹת חַכְּמַׁה וְהָוֹלֵלְוֹת וְסְבַלְוֹת בֵּי ו מֵה הַאַרָם שַּיַבוֹא אַחַרֵי הַמֶּּלֶדְּ עשוהו: אַת אַשֵּׁר־כָּבֶר יתרון שייש 13 וַרַאֵיתִי אָנִי לַחָּבְמֶּה מִן־הַסִּכְלֵוּת בִּיתְרָוֹן הָאָוֹר מִן־הַחְשֶׁדִּ: 14 הֶחְבָם עֵינְיֵו בְּרֹאשׁׁוֹ וְהַבְּסָּיל בַּחְשֶׁרָ הוֹלֻדְּ וְיָרַעְתִּי גַם־אָנִי שָׁמִּקְרֶה אֶחֶר יִקְרֶה אֶת־

membered; so later e-will no : those that will

¹²I, Koheleth Israel. ¹³I set probe with wis the sun. —An u God gave mer observed all t sun, and I foun of wind:

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le I said to le richer and wis me over Jerus ously absorbed and to apprai learned—that
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To increase

2 I said to n to merriment found, was fu ² Of revelry Of merrim

ache.

³I ventured and to grasp direct with w learn which of practice in the heaven. ⁴I is built myself

^a The Heb shiddah occurs only here in the Bible; in the Mishnah it designates a kind of chest

b Septuagint and a few Heb manuscripts have "(in exchange) for"; cf. 2.24; 3.13, 22; 5.17

^c The order of the two sentences in this verse is reversed in the translation for clarity

d-d Change of vocalization yields "me, and who is to rule"; cf. vv. 18-19

ee Lit. "will not be re "like," cf. Eccles. ? f Lit "tending," from

1P Astes

יף מְנֶנִי בְּנָנְי לְפָּנָיוֹ נְנָנְן לֵאֶפָף וְלִכְּוֹ לִפְנֵי הָאֶלה לְפָנֵי הָאֶלה וִרְעִוּת רְוּחַ:

ז לַבְּל זְמֵן וָ מַחַת הַשָּׁמָיִנ 2עת ללדת עת לַטַּעת נטוע: צעת להרוג צת לפּרְוֹץ 4 עַת לִבְבּוֹתׁ עת ספור 5 אָת לְהַשְּׁלֵי וֹמֵת כְּנַוֹם עַת לַחַבוֹינ וִעָת לְרָחִיּ 6 עת לבקש עַת לִשְּמִוּ וַעַת לְהַשְּׁ זעת לקרוו מת לַחַשְּׁוּו 8 עת לאהב צַת מִלְחָנָ 9 מַה־יִּתְרוֹן יו הוא עַמֵל: אַשר נַרַוּן אֵי ווּ לֵעֲנִוֹת בְּוֹ: וָפֶה בִעִתְוֹוּ בַּלְבָּם מִבִּיּ הָאָרָם אֶח

them both. ¹⁵So I reflected: "The fate of the fool is also destined for me; to what advantage, then, have I been wise?" And I came to the conclusion that that too was futile, ¹⁶because the wise man, just like the fool, is not remembered forever; for, as the succeeding days roll by, both are forgotten. Alas, the wise man dies, just like the fool!

¹⁷And so I loathed life. For I was distressed by all that goes on under the sun, because everything is futile and pursuit of wind.

18So, too, I loathed all the wealth that I was gaining under the sun. For I shall leave it to the man who will succeed me-19and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish?-and he will control all the wealth that I gained by toil and wisdom under the sun. That too is futile. 20 And so I came to view with despair all the gains I had made under the sun. 21For sometimes a person whose fortune was made with wisdom, knowledge, and skill must hand it on to be the portion of somebody who did not toil for it. That too is futile, and a grave evil. 22For what does a man get for all the toiling and worrying he does under the sun? 23 All his days his thoughts are grief and heartache, and even at night his mind has no respite. That too is futile!

²⁴There is nothing worth-while for a man but to eat and drink and afford himself enjoyment with his means. And even that, I noted, comes from God. ²⁵For who eats and P TUTP +cclesiastes

2.15

15 בָּלֶם: וְאָמַרְתִּי אֲנִי בְּלִבִּי בַּמַקַרֵה הַבָּסִיל נַם־אָנַי יָקַרָנִי וָלֶמָּה חָבֵמְתִּי אֲנִי אֵז יֹתֶר וְדַבַּרָתִּי בְלִבִּי שֶׁנִּם־זֶה 16 הַבֶּל: כִּי אֵין זִכְרָוֹן לֻחְבֶּם עִם־הַבְּסֵיל לִעוֹלֻם בִּשֶּׁבְּבֶּר הַיָּמֶים הַבָּאִים הַבְּל נִשְּבָּח ואַיד יָמִוּת הֶתָבֶם עִם־ 17 הַבְּסֵיל: וְשַׂנֵאתִי אֵת־הַחַיִּים בִּי רַע עָלַי הַמְּעֵשֶׁה שָׁנַעֲשָׂה תַּחַת הַשָּׁמָשׁ בִּי־הַבְּּל הֶבֶל 18 ורעות רוח: ושנאתי אַני אֶת־ בַּל־עַמָּלִי שֵׁאַנִי עָמֵל תַּחַת הַשָּׁמֵשׁ שֵׁאַנִּיהָנוּ לֶאָדֶם שֶׁיְּהְיֶה 19 אַחֲרֵי: וּמֵי יוֹדִיעַ הַחָבֶם יַהְנֶהֹ אָוֹ סַבַּל וִישִׁלַטֹ בִּכָּל־עֲמָּלִי אַהַבּעה וְאֶבּבֹלְהַה עַּבַר 20 הַשָּׁמֶשׁ נַּם־זֶה הֶבֶל: וְסַבְּוֹחִי אָנֶי לְיָאָשׁ אָת־לְבֶּי עַל בָּל־ בָּעָבְּלִל שֵּׁעָמֵלְתִּי תַּחַת הַשְּׁמֶשׁ: 21 בַּי־יָשׁ אָדָׁם שֵׁעֵמָלוֹ בְּחָכְמָה וּבְרֵעַת וּבְבִשְׁרָוֹן וּלְאָדָם שַׁלָא עָמַל־בּוֹ יִהְנָנֵוּ חֶלְקוֹ 22 נַם־זָה הֵבֶל וֹרָעָה רַבָּה: כִּי מֶת־הֹוָהַ לֶאָרָם בְּכָל־עֲמָלוֹ וּבְרַעִיִוֹן לִבְּוֹ שֶׁהְוּא עָכֵוַל 23 תַּחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ: כָּי בָל־יָנְיֵיוּ בַּבְאוֹבִים וָבַעַסׁ עִנְיָנוֹ גַּם־ בַּלֵילָה לָא־שָבַב לִבְּוֹנִם־זֶה 24 הֱבֶל הָוֹא: אֵין־טַוֹב בָּאָדָם 24 שַּיֹאבַל וְשַׁתָּה וְהֶרְאָה אֶת־ נַפָשׁוֹ טִוֹב בַּעֲטָלָוֹ נַּם־זֹה רָאַיתִי אָנִי כֵּי מִיַּדְ הָאֱלֹהָים 25 הַרא: כֵּי מִי יֹאבֶל וֹמִי יָחָוּשׁ

who enjoys but myself? ^f 26To the man, namely, who pleases Him He has given ^g-the wisdom and shrewdness to enjoy himself-^g; and to him who displeases, He has given the urge to gather and amass—only for handing on to one who is pleasing to God. That too is futile and pursuit of wind.

3 A season is set for everything, a time for every experience under heaven:^a

² A time for ^b-being born ^{-b} and a time for dying,

A time for planting and a time for uprooting the planted;

³ A time for ^e-slaying and a time for healing, ^{-e}

A time for tearing down and a time for building up;

4 A time for weeping and a time for laughing,

A time for wailing and a time for dancing;

⁵ A time for throwing stones and a time for gathering stones,

A time for embracing and a time for shunning embraces;

6 A time for seeking and a time for losing, A time for keeping and a time for discarding;

A time for ripping and a time for sewing, A time for silence and a time for speaking;

8 A time for loving and a time for hating; A time for war and a time for peace.

⁹What value, then, can the man of affairs get from what he earns? ¹⁰I have observed the business that God gave man to be concerned with: ¹¹He brings everything to pass precisely at its time; He also puts eternity

26 קוץ מָבֶּונִי: כֵּי לְאָדָם שֶׁפְּוֹב לְפָנִיו נָתָן חָכְמָה וְדָעַת וְשִׁמְחֶה וְלִחוֹשֵא נָתַוֹ עִנְיִׁן לָפָנֵי הָאֶלהִים נַם־זָה הָבֶל וּרעות רִוּחַ:

ז לַבְּל זְמֶן וְצֵת לְכָל־חֵפֶץ תחת השמים: ושת למות 2 עת ללדת ועת לעקור 3 עַת לַהַרוֹג עת לפרוץ לשחוק 4 עת לבכות רַקוֹד: ועת עת ספור זַעָת לְהַשְּׁלֵיךְ אֲבָנִים 5 ומת כנוס אַבנים עת לַחַבוק וֹמֵת לַרְחָק מַחַבֵּק: וָעֲת לִאַבַּד צת לשמור וַעַת לְהַשְּׁלֵיך: וְעַת לִתְפּוֹר זעת לקרוע

בָּלְּכָם אֶת-הַמַּעֲשֶׁה אֲשֶׁר־ עַת לָאֲהֹבֹ וְעַת לְשִׁיִמְצֵא עַת לָאֲהֹבֹ וְעַת לְשִׁיִּמְ 10 הָוּא עָמֵל: רָאַיִתִי אֶת-הַעְלִם נְתַּוְ 21 הָוּא עָמֵל: רָאַיתִי אֶת-הַעִּלִם נְתַוּ 22 אֲשֶׁר נְתַּוְ אֱלֹהִים לְבִּנִ הָאְדֶם 23 אֲשֶׁר בְּאַיָּתִי אֶת-הַעִּעִּים 24 אֲשֶׁר בְּאַיָּתִי אֶת-הַנְּעַיָּה 25 אֲשֶׁר לִא-יִמְצֵא 26 אַתְר בְּאַיָּתִי אֶת-הַנְּעַשֶּׁה אֲשֶׁר 27 הַאָּרָם אֶת-הַמַּעֲשֶׂה אֲשֶׁר 28 הַאָרָם אֶת-הַמַּעֲשֶׂה אֲשֶׁר 29 הַלְּבָּר: them both. ¹⁵S fool is also do vantage, then, came to the of futile, ¹⁶becau the fool, is no the succeeding gotten. Alas, the fool!

17 And so I le by all that go everything is f ¹⁸So, too, I was gaining u it to the man who knows 1 foolish?—and that I gained sun. That too view with des under the su whose fortun knowledge, ai the portion of it. That too is what does a r worrying he days his thou and even at r That too is fu 24There is 1 but to eat and joyment with noted, comes

CCLESIASTES
2.26

f Some mss. and ancient versions read mimmennu "by His doing"

g-g Lit. "wisdom and knowledge and enjoyment"

^a I.e. all human experiences are preordained by God; see v. 11 b-b Lit. "giving birth"

Emendation yields "wrecking repairing"; cf. I Ki. 18.30

IP IASTES

12

הַיּבֶדֶת הָיא יִשְּׁמֵח הָאָרָם יִשְּׁמֵח הָוּא חֶלְּקוּ לְרָאוֹת בְּמֶה לִרְאוֹת בְּמֶה

יו ושבחי אני וא הַעֲשָׁלִים אֲשֶׁ הַשָּׁמֶשׁוָהַנָּהּוֹוִ עִשָּקיהַם כּו 2 מַנַחֶם: וְשֶׁבֵּחַ: 3 הַמָּה חַיִּייִם מְשָׁנֵיהֶם אֶת היה אשר י הַבָּעֲעֲהַ הָרָ 4 עובת בשמת אָת־כָּל־עָנַי בשרון המו קנאת־איש 5 הֶבֶל וּרִעוּח חַבַּק אֶת־יַוֹּ 6 בַּשַּׂרְוֹ: מוֹב מִמְּלָא חָפַנֵי ז רות: ושַׁבִתִּי 8 מַחַת הַשָּׁמִשׁ שני נַם בַּן נַ קץ לכלי! לא־תשבע עָמָל מִּפוֹבָה נַם־יַ 9 הָוּא: טוֹבֵי הַאָּחָר אֲשֶׁר

in their mind,^a but without man ever guessing, from first to last, all the things that God brings to pass. ¹²Thus I realized that the only worth-while thing there is for them is to enjoy themselves and do what is good^a in their lifetime; ¹³ also, that whenever a man does eat and drink and get enjoyment out of all his wealth, it is a gift of God.

¹⁴I realized, too, that whatever God has brought to pass will recur evermore:

Nothing can be added to it
And nothing taken from it—
and God has brought to pass that men revere
Him.

¹⁵ What is occurring occurred long since, And what is to occur occurred long since: and God seeks the pursued. ¹⁶And, indeed, I have observed under the sun:

Alongside justice there is wickedness, Alongside righteousness there is wickedness.

¹⁷I mused: "God will doom both righteous and wicked, for g-there is-g a time for every experience and for every happening." 18 fSo I decided, as regards men, to dissociate them [from] the divine beings and to face the fact that they are beasts.^h 19 For in respect of the fate of man and the fate of beast, they have one and the same fate: as the one dies so dies the other, and both have the same life-breath; man has no superiority over beast, since both amount to nothing. ²⁰Both go to the same place; both came from dust and both return to dust. 21 Who knows if a man's life-breath does rise upward and if a beast's breath does sink down into the earth?

TUTP ecclesiastes

3.12

עשַה הָאֵלהַים מַרְאשׁ וְעַר־ 12 סוף: יַדַעְתִּי בֵּי אֵין מִוֹב בָּם בָּי אִם־לִשְּׂמוֹתַ וְלֵעֲשְּׂוֹת מְוֹב כַּל־הָאָדָם 13 בדופין: וַשַּׁלֵתה וַרַאַה מְוֹב שיאכל בַּבָל־צְמָלָוֹ מַתַּת אֱלֹהֵים 14 הֵיא: יָדַעְתִּי בִּי כָּל־אֲשֵׁר יעשה האלהים הוא יהיה לְעוֹלֶם עָלֵיוֹ אֵין לְהוֹסִׁיף וּמִמֶּנוּ אֵין לְנְרָעַ וְהָאֵלֹהֵים 15 עָשָּׁה שֶׁיְרָאָוּ מִלְּפָנֵיו: מַה־ שֶׁהָיָהֹ כְּבֶר הוּא וַאֲשֵׁר לְהִיוֹת בְּבֶר הָיָהָ וְהָאֱלֹהֵים יְבַקּשׁ וְעַוֹר רָאִיתִי 16 אָת־נְרָדֶּרָ: قَائِلًا لَيُهُمُّهُمْ فَأَكُّرُوا يُوَفِّقُوا שַׁמָּה הָרַשַּׁע וּמְקוֹם הַצֶּּדֶק 17 שֲמָה הָרֶשַׁע: אָמַרִתִּי אַנִּי בָּלְבִּי אֶת־הַצַּדִּילִ וָאֵת־ הַרָשָּׁע יִשְׁפָּט הָאֵלהִים בּי־ עַת לְכָל־הַפֶּץ וִעֵּל בָּל־ וּצּוֹ הַמַּעֲשֶׂה שָׁם: אָמַרְתִּי אָנִיֹּ בָּלְבָּׁי עַל־דִבְרַתֹ בִּנֵי הַאָּדַׁם לָבָרֶם הָאֱלֹהֵים וְלְרָאוֹת 19 שְׁהֶם־בְּהֵתְּהָ הֻמָּה לְהֵם: כִּיּ מַקַרָה בַנִי־הָאָרָם וּמִקְרָה הַבְּהַמָּה וּמִקְּרֶה אֶחָר לְהֶּם בָּמְוֹת זֶה בַּן מְוֹת זֶה וְרַוֹּחַ אֶחֶר לַבָּל וּמוֹתַּר הַאָּדָם מִן־ הַבְּהַמָּה אָוִן בְּי הַבְּל הֶבֶּל: 20 הַבָּל הוֹלֵך אֶל־מָקוֹם אֶחֲר הַבֹּל הַיָה מְן־הַעָּבָּר וְהַבְּל צּשֶׁב אֶל־הֶעָפֶר: מִי יוֹדֵעַ 21 רַוּתַ בְּנֵי הָאָרָם הַעֹלֵה הֵיא הַבְּהַמָּה ורות

^d I.e. He preoccupies man with the attempt to discover the times of future events; cf. 8.17

e I.e. what the author has already concluded (2.24) is good

^f Meaning of parts of verse uncertain

g-g Shift of a diacritical point yields "He has set"

h Contrast Ps. 8.5-6

²²I saw that there is nothing better for man than to enjoy his possessions, since that is his portion. For who can enable him to see what will happen afterward?

4 I further observed^a all the oppression that goes on under the sun: the tears of the oppressed, with none to comfort them; and the power of their oppressors—with none to comfort them. ²Then I accounted those who died long since more fortunate than those who are still living; ³ and happier than either are those who have not yet come into being and have never witnessed the miseries that go on under the sun.

⁴I have also noted that all labor and skillful enterprise come from men's envy of each other—another futility and pursuit of wind!

⁵ [True,]

The fool folds his hands together^b And has to eat his own flesh.

6 [But no less truly,]
Better is a handful of gratification
Than two fistfuls of labor which is pursuit of wind.

⁷And I have noted this further futility under the sun: 8the case of the man who is alone, with no companion, who has neither son nor brother; yet he amasses wealth without limit, and his eye is never sated with riches. For whom, now, 6-is he amassing it while denying himself-6 enjoyment? That

too is a futility and an unhappy business.

9 a Two are better off than one, in that
they have greater e-benefit from-e their earn-

ecclesiastes

הַיּכֶּדָת הָיא לְמַשָּה לְאֵּכֶץ: יִשְׁמַח הָאָדָם בְּמַצִּשְּׁיוּ כִּי־ הָוּא חֶלְקוֹ כָּי מֵי יְבִיאֶנּוּ לְרָאוֹת בָּמֵה שְּיֵהְיֶה אַחַרֵיוּ: לְרָאוֹת בָּמֵה שְׁיָהְיֶה אַחַרֵיוּ:

ַר וְשֵּׁבְתִּי אֲנִי וְאֶרְאֶהֹ אֶת־בָּל־ הַעַשָּׁלִים אֲשֵׁר נַעֲשִּׁים חַחַת הַשֶּׁמֶשׁוְהַנָּה וּ הִמְעַתהָעַשָּׁלִים להם מנחם ומיד עְשָׁקֵיהֶם בֿהַ וָאַין לָהֶם s לַנַנֵּים: נְאַבַּנַאָנִי אָת־בַּמַּתִּים שֶׁבְּבֶר מֻתוּ מִן־הַחַיִּים אֲשֶׁר s הַמָּה חַיִּים עֲהָנָה: וְמוֹבׁ מִשְׁנֵיהֶם אָת אֲשֶׁר־עֲדֶן לָא הָיָהָ אֲשֶׁר לְאֹדְרָאָהֹ אֶת־ הַמֶּעֲשָׂה הָרָע אֲשֶׁר נְעֲשָׂה לַתְת הַשֵּׁמֶשׁ: וְרָאִיתִי אֵלִילַתְתַת הַשַּׁמֶשׁ: וְרָאִיתִי אֵלִי אָת־בָּל־עַמָּל וָאֵת בַּל־ בִּשְׁרָוֹן הַמַּעשֶּׁה כֵּי הִיא קַנָאָת־אָישׁ מֵרֵעָהוּ נָּם־זָה 5 הַבֶּל וּרָעוּת רָוּחַ: הַכְּסִיל חבק אַת־יַדִיו ואֹבֵל אַת־ 6 בַּשֶּׁרְוֹ: מוֹב מְלְא בַף נָחַת מִמְלָא חָפַנִים עָמֶל וּרְעִוּת ז רָוּחַ: וְשַׁבְתִּי אֲנֵי וֵאֶרְאֵה הֶבֶל שֵׁנִי נַם בַּן וָאֲח אֵין־לוֹ וְאֵין קַץ לְכָל־עֲמָלוֹ נַם־עֵינִיוֹ לָא־תִשָּׁבֵע עַשֵּׁר וּלְמֵיו אַנִי ומחפר מַמוֹבָה נַם־זָה הַבַל וִענַין רָע 9 הוא: טובים הַשְׁנֵים מִן־ הַאָּחָר אַשֶּׁר יַשׁ־לָהֶם שָּׁבֵּר

ing, from fir brings to p only worth. to enjoy th in their lifet does eat an of all his w 14I realiz brought to Nothing And not and God ha Him. 15 fWhat is And who and God se I have obse Alongsic Alongsic ness.

in their min

and wicked experience 18 fSo I do sociate the to face the respect of beast, they the one die the same li over beast 20 Both go from dust knows if a 1 and if a both

h Contrast Ps. 8.5-1

the earth?

^a Cf. 3.16

^b I.e. does not work; cf. Prov. 6.10; 24.33

e-c Lit. "am I amassing . . . myself"

d 4.9-5.8 consists of a series of observations of which each one is introduced by some slight association with what precedes. The theme of 4.4-8 is not resumed until 5.9

e-e Emendation yields "hope for"; cf. 2.20

d I.e. He preoccupi times of future ev e I.e. what the auth f Meaning of parts g-B Shift of a diacri

1P Astes

4 שַקַב: מוב 5 מַשֵּׁתְרוֹר וַלְּיֹ נישו אַת־פָּין בשרה ואַכ 9 נַדִובֶּל אֶת־נַ חַל בָלָב וּדְבָרֶים הַוּ ז הַאֵּלֹהֵים יָרָזּ ונול משפט בַמָּדִינָה אַי בַּעַפָּץ כַּי 8 שׁמֶּר וּנִבֿהֵיב אָרֵץ בַּבָּר ז פּ נְצֶבֶר: אֹהַבּ בכף ומידי 10 תָבוּאָה נַּם־יִ הַמּוֹבַה רַבִּוּ בַשָּׁרוֹן לַבִי יו ראָית עיניו הַעֹבֵר הַרבֵּה יאבֵי 12 אַינְנַּוּ מֻנִּיחַ כְ חוֹלַה רָאֵיו עשר שמור 18 וַאָבֶר הָעְשֵׁו וָהוֹלֵיד בַּן וָיִ 14 כאשר יצא יַשְׁוּב לָלֱכֶר לארישאבע 15 וְנָם־וֹּהֹ רָעֲד

ירא ק' v. 10. רא v. 8.

שַבָּא בַן יַלַן

ings. ¹⁰For should they fall, one can raise the other; but woe betide him who is alone and falls with no companion to raise him! ¹¹Further, when two lie together they are warm; but how can he who is alone get warm? ¹²Also, if one attacks, two can stand up to him. A threefold cord is not readily broken!

13Better a poor but wise youth than an old but foolish king who no longer has the sense to heed warnings. 14For the former can emerge from a dungeon to become king; while the latter, even if born to kingship, can become a pauper. 15 [However,] I reflected about 1-all the living who walk under the sun with 1-1 that youthful successor who steps into his place. 16 Unnumbered are the multitudes of all those who preceded them; 1 and later generations will not acclaim him either. 1 For that 1 too is futile and pursuit of wind.

¹⁷ ^k-Be not overeager to go-^k to the House of God: more acceptable is obedience than the offering of fools, for they know nothing [but] to do wrong.

5 Keep your mouth from being rash, and let not your throat^a be quick to bring forth speech before God. For God is in heaven and you are on earth; that is why your words should be few. ²Just as dreams come with much brooding, so does foolish utterance come with much speech. ³When you make a vow to God, do not delay to fulfill it. For He has no pleasure in fools; what you vow,

ecclesiastes
4.10

10 טָּוֹב בָּעַמָלֶם: בִּי אָם־יִפְּׁלוּ הָאֶחֶד יָקִים אֶת־חֲבַרָוֹ וָאַילוֹ הֱאֶחָר שֵׁיִפֹּל וֹאֵין 11 לַדָּקימִו: נַּם אִם־יִשְׁכָּבוּ שְׁנַיָם וְתַם לָתָם וּלְאֶחֶר אִידְּ 12 בַקָּם: וְאָם־יִתְקְפוּ הָאֶּחָׁד הַשָּׁנִיָם יַעַּמְרָוּ נָגְרָוֹ וְהַחוּטׁ הַמִשִּׁלָשׁ לָא בִמְהַרָה יַנָּתַק: 13 אַוֹב יֶלֶר מִסְבֵּן וְחָבֶם מִפֶּּלֶרְ זָקן וּכָסִיל אֲשֶׁר לְאדיָרַע 14 לְהָזָהֵר עִוֹד: בֵּי־מִבְּית הַסוּרֵים יָצָא לִמִלְדְּ בֵּי נַּם 15 בַּמַלְכוּתְוֹ נוֹלֵד רַשׁ: רַאִּיתִיׁ אֶת־כָּל־הַחַיִּים הַמְהַלְּכִים תַחַת הַשָּׁמֵשׁ עָם הַיֵּלֵד הַשַּׁנִי 16 אַשֵּׁר יָעֲמָר תַּחָתֵּיו: אֵין־ַקִּץ לְבָל־הָעָׁם לְכַּל אֵשֵׁר־הַיַהֹ לְפְנֵיהֶם נָּם הָאָחַרוֹנִים לְא יִשְּׂמְחוּ־בָוֹ פִי־נִם־זָה הֶבֶּל 17 וַרַעִיוֹן רְוֹּחֵ: שָׁמָר רַגְּלִיףׁ אַל־בֶּית הָאֱלֹהִים וָקַרְוֹב לִשְׁמֹעַ מִתַּת הַבָּסִילֵים זַבַח בִּי־אֵינַם יוֹרְעִים לַעֲשְׂוֹת רַע:

יאַחַר לְשַׁלְּמִוֹ עֵל־פִּיד וְלִבְּדְּ אַל־יִמָהָר לְהוּצִיא דָבֶּר לְפָּנִי הָאֶלֹהִים כִּי הָאֶלֹהִים עַל־בֵּן יְהְיִוּ דְבָרֶים: בַּאֲשֶׁר עַל־בֵּן יְהְיִוּ דְבָרֶים: בַּאֲשֶׁר עַל־בֵּן יְהְיִוּ דְבָרֶים: בַּאֲשֶׁר תַל־בֵּן יְהְיִוּ דְבָרֶים: בַּאֲשֶׁר תַלְבַּן יִהְיוּ דְבָרֶים: בַּאֲשֶׁר הַאָּלְהִים אַל־ הָאַחָר לְשַׁלְּמִוֹ עַל־בִּים: בַּאֲשֶׁר הָאַחָר לְשַׁלְמֵוֹ עַל־בִּים: בַּאֲשֶׁר

^f Taking *rash* as a verb; cf. Ps. 34.11 g-g I.e. "the contemporaries of"

h And so never heard of the gifted youth

¹ I.e. the advantage of wisdom over folly

¹ For despite his wisdom, he too will be forgotten; cf. 2.16

k-k Lit. "Guard your foot when it [or, you] would go"

^a Heb *leb*, lit. "heart," sometimes designates the organ of speech; cf. Isa. 33.18; 59.13; Ps. 19.15; 49.4; Job 8.10

fulfill. 4It is better not to vow at all than to vow and not fulfill. 5Don't let your mouth bring you into disfavor, and don't plead before the messenger^b that it was an error, 6-but fear God-6; else God may be angered by your talk and destroy your possessions. 6 ^aFor much dreaming leads to futility and to superfluous talk.

7If you see in a province oppression of the poor and suppression of right and justice, don't wonder at the fact; for one high official is protected by a higher one, and both of them by still higher ones. 8Thus the greatest advantage in all the land is his: he controls a field that is cultivated.

⁹A lover of money never has his fill of money, nor a lover of wealth his fill of income. That too is futile. ¹⁰As his substance increases, so do those who consume it; what, then, does the success of its owner amount to, but feasting his eyes? ¹¹A worker's sleep is sweet, whether he has much or little to eat; but the rich man's abundance doesn't let him sleep.

¹²Here is a grave evil I have observed under the sun: riches hoarded by their owner to his misfortune, ¹³in that those riches are lost in some unlucky venture; and if he begets a son, he has nothing in hand.

^{14 g}-Another grave evil is this: He must depart just as he came. ^{-g} As he came out of his mother's womb, so must he depart at last, naked as he came. He can take nothing of his wealth to carry with him. ¹⁵So what is

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בַּבָּסִילֵים אָת אָשֵׁר־תִּדְר 4 שַׁלֵם: טִוֹב אַשֵּׁר לְאֹדתְדְּר 5 מַשַּׁתִּדְוֹר וְלָא תִשַּׁלֵם: אַל־ הַתַּן אֶת־פִּידֹּ לַחֲמָיא אֵת־ בְּשֶׂרֶך וָאֵל־תֹאמֵר לִפְנֵי הַמַּלְאָד בֵּי שָׁנָנָה הֵיא לֵפָּה יָקַצָּוּף הָאֱלֹהִים עַל־קוֹלֵף 6 וַחָבֵּל אָת־מֵעֲשֵׂה יָדֵיף: כִּי והבלים חַלמוֹת וּדְבָרֶים הַרְבֵּה בִּי אַת־ ז הַאֶּלהִים יְרֵא: אִם־עִשֵׁק רַשׁ ונול משפט וצדל הראה בַמַּדִינָה אַל־תַּתְמַה עַל־ הַחָפַץ כִּי נַבֿהַ מָעַל נָבֿהַ 8 שֹׁמֶּר וּגִבֹהֵים עֵלֵיהָם: וִיתִרוֹן אָרֵץ בַּבָּל הַיֹּא מֵלֶדְּ לְשַּׁרֵה 9 נַעָבֶר: אֹהָב בְּסֶף לָא־יִשְׁבַע בַּסַף וּמִי־אֹהַב בַּהַמַוֹן לָא 10 תִבוּאָה גַּם־זֵה הָבֶל: בְּרָבוֹת הַפוֹבָה רַבְּוֹ אִוֹכְלֵיהַ וּמַה־ בָּשָׁרוֹן לִבְעָלֵיהַ בֵּי אָם־ יו רָאָיּת עֵינֵיו: מַתוּקַה שָׁנַת אַם־מִעַמּ הַרְבָּה יאבֶל וְהַשָּׁבָע לֻעְשִּׁיר ישׁ רַעָה (בּיִּיחַ לְוֹ לִישְׁוֹן: ְיֵשׁ רָעָה 12 חוֹלָה רָאִיתִי תַּחַת הַשָּׁמִשׁ צַשַּׁר שָׁכִזוּר לְבָעָלֵיו לְרֻעָּחִוֹ: וּוֹ וָאָבֵר הָעְשֶׁר הַהְוּאַ בְּעִנִין רֻע 13 יָהוֹלָיד בַּן וְאֵין בְּיָרָוֹ מְאִוּמָה: יוּ בַּאֲשֶׁר יָצָא מִבָּטֶן אָמֹוֹ עָרַוֹם 14 יַשוֹב לָלֱכֶת בְשֶׁבָּא וּמְאוּמָה לא־ישאבעמלושילד בידו: 15 וְנָם־זֹּה רָעָה חוֹלָה כָּל־עְמַת שבא בן ילד ומהדיתרון לו

ings. ¹⁰For she the other; but ward falls with ¹¹Further, whe warm; but ho warm? ¹²Also, up to him. A broken!

but foolish king to heed warn emerge from while the latter become a paurabout grall the with grall that you his place. 16 Ur of all those w generations withat too is

God: more ac offering of for [but] to do w 5 Keep your let not your t speech before and you are or should be few much broodi come with m a vow to God He has no ple

f Taking rash as a ver

b Some ancient versions read "God"

c-c Moved up from v. 6 for clarity

d Meaning of verse uncertain. Emendation yields: "Much brooding results in dreams; and much talk in futilities"; cf. v. 2

e I.e. the high official profits from the labor of others; but meaning of verse uncertain

f Some ancient versions have "slave's"

g-g Moved up from v. 15 for clarity

⁸⁻⁸ I.e. "the contempo h And so never heard i For despite his wisd i I.e. the advantage of

^{*}k-k Lit. "Guard your * Heb leb, lit. "heart speech; cf. Isa. 33.1

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חָיָה אֱלֶף שָׁנִים פַּנְ לא רָאָה הַלָּא ז אָחֶד הַכְּל הוֹלֵךְ: הָאָדֶם לְפֵּיהוּ וְגַם אַכְּא: כֵּי מַה־יּהַמְּלֵא: כַּי מַה־יּ מָן־הַכְּסֵיל מַה־ 9 לַהַלֹּךְ נֶעָרַ מַראַה עִינַיִם נ נַם־זַנָה הֱבֶל וּרָ 10 מַה־שֵׁהַיָה כְּבַרׁ ונוֹרֶע אֲשֶׁר־הָוּא לַרון עַם יוּכַל 11 מִמֶנוּ: כֵּי וַשׁ־דִּבָּ מַרְבֵּים 12 לֵאָדֶם: כֵּי מֶי־ שוֹב לֵאָלָם בַּחַ יָמֶי־חַיֵּי הַבְּלִוֹ וַ אַשֶׁרֹ מִי־יַנִּיִד כְ יַהָינֶה אָחֲרֶיו מַּנ

the good of his toiling for the wind? ¹⁶Besides, all his days ^h-he eats in darkness, ^h with much vexation and grief and anger.

¹⁷Only this, I have found, is a real good: that one should eat and drink and get pleasure with all the gains he makes under the sun, during the numbered days of life that God has given him; for that is his portion. ¹⁸Also, whenever a man is given riches and property by God, and is also permitted by Him to enjoy them and to take his portion and get pleasure for his gains—that is a gift of God. ¹⁹For [such a man] will not brood much over the days of his life, ¹ because God keeps him busy enjoying himself.

f 6 There is an evil I have observed under the sun, and a grave one it is for man: 2that God sometimes grants a man riches, property, and wealth, so that he does not want for anything his appetite may crave, but God does not permit him to enjoy it; instead, a stranger will enjoy it. That is futility and a grievous ill. 3Even if a man should beget a hundred children and live many years—no matter how many the days of his years may come to, if his gullet is not sated through his wealth, I say: The stillbirth, though it was not even accorded a burial,^a is more fortunate than he. 4Though it comes into futility and departs into darkness, and its very name is covered with darkness, 5though it has never seen or experienced the sun, it is better off than he-6yes, even if the other lived a thousand years twice over but never had his fill of enjoyment! For are not both of them bound for the same place?

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16 שַׁיַעַמָּל לַרְוּח: גַּם כַּל־יַמֵיוּ בַּתְשֶׁרְ יֹאבֵל וְכָעַס הַרְבֵּה 17 וְחָלְיִוֹ וָקָצֶף: הַבָּּה אֲשֶׁר־ רַאַיתִי אָנִי טִוֹב אֲשֵׁר־יָפָה לַאָבוֹל וַלְשָׁתוֹת וַלְרָאוֹת מוֹבֶה בָּבֶל־עַמַלִוֹ ו שֵׁיַעַמָּל תַּחַת־הַשַּׁמִשׁ מִסְפַּר יִמֵּי־־ תַיָּנָ אֲשֶׁר־נְתַּוֹ־לְוֹ הָאֱלֹהַים 18 בִּי־הָוּא חֶלְקוֹ: גַּם בַּל־־־ הָאָרָם אַשֵּׁר נְתַּוֹ־לָוֹ הָאֵלֹהִיםׁ עשר וּנְבָסִים וָהָשָּׁלִישׁוֹ לֵאֵבָּל וַלְשֵׂאת אַת־חֵלְקֹוֹ וָלִשְׁׂלְתַ בַּעֲמָלָוֹ זְּהַ מַתַּת 19 אֱלֹהֶים הַיא: כָּי לְאׁ הַרְבַּה יוֹבֶר אֶת־יִבֵּי חַיַּיִוּ כָּי הָאֱלֹהֵים מַצֵנֶה בְּשִׂמְתַתלּבְּוֹ:

רַאַיתִי תַּחַת אַשֶּׁר רָאַיתִי תַּחַת 1 🐧 הַאָּמֶשׁ וְרַבָּה הֵיא עַל־ 2 הַאָּדֶם: אַישׁ אַשֵּׁר יִתַּן־לְוֹ הָאֱלֹהִׁים עשֵׁרْ וּנְכָסִׁים וִכְבׁוֹד וְאֵינֶנוּ חָסֵר לְנַפִּשׁוֹ ו מִכַּל אַשֶּׁר־יַתִאַנָּה וַלְאֹ־יַשְׁלִימֵנּוּ הָאֵלֹהִים לֵאָבָל מְמַּנוּ כֵּי אַישׁ נָכְרֵי יְאכָלֶנוּ זֶה הֶבֶל וְחֲלִי צ רֶע הָוּא: אָם־יוֹלֵיד אַישׁ 3 מַאָּה וִשָּׁנִים בַבּוֹת יַחְיָה וְרֵב וּ שֶׁיָהְיוַ יְמֵי־שָׁנָיו וְנַפִּשׁוֹּ לִא־ תַשָּׁבַעַ מִן־הַפּוֹבָה וְנַם־ קבורה לא־הַיָּתָה לַּוֹ אָלֵירָהִי • טוב ממנו הופל: פי־בַהֶבֶל בָּא וּבַרְשֶׁרְ יֵלֻרְ וּבַרְשֶׁרְ שְׁמְוֹ זּיַכְפָּה: גַּם־שָׁמָשׁ לְאֹ־רָאָה 6 ולאיַדֶע נַחַת לָזָה מִזֶּה: וִאַלַּוּ

h-h Septuagint reads "are [spent] in darkness and mourning"

¹The thought of which is depressing; see v. 16

^a Stillbirths were cast into pits or hidden in the ground in no recognizable graves; cf. v. 4 end

^{7 b}All of man's earning is for the sake of his mouth, ⁶-yet his gullet is not sated. ⁸ What advantage then has the wise man over the fool, what advantage has the pauper who knows how to get on in life? ⁶ 9 ^d Is the feasting of the eyes more important than the pursuit of desire? That, too, is futility and pursuit of wind.

10 Whatever happens, it was designated long ago and it was known that it would happen; as for man, he cannot contend with what is stronger than he. ¹¹Often, much talk means much futility. How does it benefit a man? ¹²Who can possibly know what is best for a man to do in life—the few days of his fleeting life? For who can tell him what the future holds for him under the sun?

7 aA good name is better than fragrant oil, and the day of death than the day of birth.

²It is better to go to a house of mourning than to a house of feasting; for that is the end of every man, and a living one should take it to heart.

³Vexation is better than revelry;^c for though the face be sad, the heart may be glad. ⁴Wise men are drawn to a house of mourning, and fools to a house of merrymaking.

⁵It is better to listen to a wise man's reproof than to listen to the praise of fools. ⁶For the levity^d of the fool is like the crack-

^b Cf. Prov. 16.26

d Meaning of first half of verse uncertain

d Emendation yields "praise" (shbh)

ecclesiastes 6.7

חָיָהאֶלֶף שָׁנִים פַּעֲמַׁיִם וְטוֹבֵה לא ראָה הַלָּא אַל־מַקוֹם ז אֶחֶר הַבָּל הוֹלֵך: בָּל־עַמַל הָאָדֶם לְפֶּיהוּ וְגַם־הַנֶּפֶשׁ לְא 8 תִּמָּלֵא: כֵּי מַה־יּוֹתֵר לֶחְבָם מָן־הַכָּסִיל מַה־לֵעַנִי יוֹדֵעַ 9 לַהַלָּדְ נָנָדְ הַחַיִּים: טְּוֹב מַראָה עינים מַהַלַּדְּדַנָּפְשׁ בַּבר וַרְעוּת רָוּחָ: 10 מַה־שֶּׁהָיָה כְּבָרֹ נִקְרָא שְׁמֹוֹ וְנוֹדֶע אֲשֶׁר־הַוּא אָדֶם וִלְאֹ־ יוּבֶל לָדִין עָם שָהֹתַקִיף 11 מִמֵּנוּ: פֵּי יֵשׁ־דְּבָרִים הַרְבֵּה תָבֶל מֶרְבֵּים 12 לֵאָדֶם: כֵּי מִי־יוֹדֵעַ מַה־ שוב לַאָּדָם בַּחַיִּים מִסְפֵּר יָמֶי־חַיֵּי הֶבְלוֹ וְיַעַשֵּׁם בַּצֵּל אַשֵּׁר מֵי־יַנִּיד לָאַרָם מַה־ יָהְיֶה אַחֲרֶיו מִּחַת הַשַּׁמֵשׁ:

the good of his toil sides, all his days 'with much vexation

17 Only this, I hav that one should eat a ure with all the gai sun, during the nur God has given him; 18 Also, whenever a property by God, a Him to enjoy them and get pleasure for of God. 19 For [such much over the days keeps him busy enjoy.

O There is an evil the sun, and a gr 2that God sometim property, and weal want for anything but God does not instead, a stranger tility and a grievous beget a hundred years-no matter he years may come to through his wealt though it was not is more fortunate tl into futility and de its very name is 5though it has nev€ sun, it is better off other lived a thous never had his fill o both of them bot

c-c Meaning of Heb uncertain; emendation yields "And if the gullet is not sated, (8) what advantage has the wise man over the fool, he who knows how to get on in life over the pauper?"

e Lit. "according to the shadow that"; cf. Qumran Aramaic betel and Syriac mettol; and see 8.13

^a The author now offers a number of practical maxims, which, however, he concludes (verses 23-24) are of limited value

^b Until a man dies, there is always danger that he may forfeit his good name

^e For empty revelry precludes real happiness: cf. 2.2

h-h Septuagint reads "are [spe

The thought of which is de

a Stillbirths were cast into pi no recognizable graves; cf.

JTP ESIASTES 7.20

20 הַוּוּ בָּעֵיר: כֵּי אָּוַׁ בָּאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר יַעַשֶּׁ זמ בווים לבי בי לבי מו אשר ידברו אל אשר לא־תשמע 22 מָקלַלֶּדָּ רַבְּוֹתיָדֵעלְבֶּדְאֵ 23 קַלְּלָתָּ אֲחַרִים 23 נָפַיתִי בֿטַכָּמָד אַתֹּבֶּמָה וָהֵיא רִז 42 רַחְוֹק מַה־שֶׁבְיָהָוּ 25 מֵר יִמְצָאֲנּוּ: סָבּוֹ לַדַעַת וַלְתוּר וּנְ וְחֶשְׁבֻּוֹן וְלָרַעַת 26 וָהַסִּבְלְוּת הְוֹלֵלְ אַנִי מַר מִמַּוַת אַשֶּׁר־הִיא מְצוֹּדְ לָבֶּה אֲסוּרַים יָדֶי הַאֵלהִים יִמָּלֵט נ 27 יַלֶּכֶר בָּה: רָאַר אָמָרָה לְהֶלֶת זּ 28 לִמְצָא חֲשְׁבְּוֹן: בַּלַמֵּר נַפָּמָּר אָרֶם אַחָר מָאֵי : מַצֵאַתִיי 29 מַצַאתי אַשֶר עָנָ אָת־הָאָרֶם יָשֶׁר

נְאָי כְּהָחָלָם וּמְי דְּבָר חָכְמַת אָדָו שָׁמִׁר וִשָּׁנְא: : שָׁמִׁר וִעָּׁל דְּבָ

חָשָּבנוֹת רַבֶּים:

יף אתה V. 22

ling of nettles under a kettle. But that too is illusory; 7for cheating may rob the wise man of reason and/destroy the prudence of the cautious.

⁸ The end of a matter is better than the beginning of it.

Better a patient spirit than a haughty spirit.

⁹Don't let your spirit be quickly vexed, for vexation abides in the breasts of fools.

10Don't say, "How has it happened that former times were better than these?" For it is not wise of you to ask that question.

11 Wisdom is as good as a patrimony, and even better, for those who behold the sun. 12 For to be in the shelter of wisdom is to be also in the shelter of money, h and the advantage of intelligence is that wisdom preserves the life of him who possesses it.

13 'Consider God's doing! Who can straighten what He has twisted? 14So in a time of good fortune enjoy the good fortune; and in a time of misfortune, reflect: The one no less than the other was God's doing; consequently, man may find no fault with Him.'

15 In my own brief span of life, I have seen both these things: sometimes a good man perishes in spite of his goodness, and sometimes a wicked one endures in spite of his wickedness. 16 So don't overdo goodness and don't act the wise man to excess, or you may be dumfounded. 17 Don't overdo wickedness and don't be a fool, or you may die before your time. 18 It is best that you grasp the one without letting go of the other, for one who fears God will do his duty^k by both.

19Wisdom is more of a stronghold to a

e This section, to end of verse 7, is apparently a continuation of the thought in verses 11–12 and 19

f Emendation yields "riches"

g Lit. "caution"; cf. post-biblical mathun "cautious"

h Emendation yields "For the possessor of wisdom becomes

a possessor of money" ⁱVerses 13-14 continue the thought of v. 10

¹So Rashi; cf. the same thought in Job 2.10; 1.22

k Cf. post-biblical yaşa yede

ecclesiastes

ז הַבְּסֵיל ונִם־זָה הָבֵל: בִּי הָּעָשֶׁק יָהוֹלֵל חָבֶם וֵיאַבֵּר 8 אָת־לֵב מַתָּנָה: מֵוֹב אַחַרִית בַבֶּר מַרָאשִׁיתִוֹ מְוֹב אֶרֶדְּ לוַחַ מִּנְּבַה רְנִחַ: אַל־תִּבַה סְלוֹחַ מִנְּבַה רְנִחַ: אַל־תִּבְּתַל בְּרָוֹחֲךְּלִבְעָוֹס כֵּי בַעַס בִּחֵיק 10 כְּסִילֵים יָנָוּחֵ: אַל־תֹּאמֵר מָה הָיָה שֻׁהַיָּמִים הַרָאשׁנִים היו שובים מאלה בי לא מֵחָבְמָה שָאַלֹתָ עַל־זַה: 11 מוֹבֶה חָכְמָה עִם־נַחֲלֶה וִיֹתֵר 12 לְרֹאָר הַשָּׁמֶשׁ: כֵּי בְּצַל הַחָּכְמֶה בְּצֵּל הַבֶּכֶּסֶף וְיִתְרָוֹן בַּעַת הַּחָבְּמָה הְּחַיֵּה בִעָּלֵיה: 18 רָאָה אֶת־מַצְשֵׂה הָאֶלֹהָים כִּי בַּי יוּכַל לְתַלֵּן אָת אֲשֶׁר עוָּתוֹ: 14 בִּיוֹם טוֹכָה הֵיֵה בִּטוֹב וּבִיוֹם רַעָה רָאָהנַם אַת־זַהַ לִעְפָּת־ זַהֹ עָשָׂה הָאֱלֹהִים עַל־דְבְרַת שלא ימצא הַאָּרָם אַחַרֵיו 15 מָאָוּמָה: אַת־הַבָּל רַאֵיתִי בּימֵי הַבְּלֵי וַשֵּׁ צַדִּילְ אבֶר בַּצִּדְלוֹ וְיַשׁ רְשָּׁע מַאַּרִיף 16 בַּרֶעָתוֹ: אַל־תָּהַי צַדִּיק הַרבָּה וָאַל־תִּתְחַכֵּם יוֹתֵר 17 לַבָּוֹה תִשׁוֹמֵם: אַל־תִּרְשַׁע הַרָבֶּה וָאַל־תִּהֵי סָבָל לֻמַּה 18 תַּמְוּת בְּלָא עָתֵּך: טַוֹב אֲשֵׁר מַאֵּחָז בָּזָה וַנַם־מְזָה אַל־מַנַּח אָת־יָבֶדְּ בִּי־יְבֵא אֱלֹהַים 19 וַצָּאאֶת־כָּלֶם: הַחְבְּמָה חָעַז בַ'חָבָם מֵעֲשַׂרָה שַׁלִּיטִים אָשֵׁר

wise man than 1-ten magnates-1 that a city may contain.

^{20 m}For there is not one good man on earth who does what is bestⁿ and doesn't err.

²¹Finally, don't pay attention to everything that is said, so that you may not hear your slave reviling you; 22 for well you remember the many times that you yourself have reviled others.

23 All this I tested with wisdom. I thought I could fathom it," but it eludes me. 24 [The secret of what happens is elusive and deep, deep down; who can discover it? 25 I put my mind to studying, exploring, and seeking wisdom and the reason of things, and to studying wickedness, stupidity, madness, and folly. ²⁶Now, I find woman more bitter than death; she is all traps, her hands are fetters and her heart is snares. He who is pleasing to God escapes her, and he who is displeasing is caught by her. 27 See, this is what I found, said Koheleth, item by item in my search for the reason of things. 28 As for what I sought further but did not find, I found only one human being in a thousand, and the one I found among so many was never a woman. ²⁹But, see, this I did find: God made men plain, but they have engaged in too much reasoning.

8 a-Who is like the wise man,-a and who knows the meaning of the adage:

"A man's wisdom lights up his face, So that his deep discontent^b is dissembled"?

²I do! "Obey the king's orders-and °-don't

7.20

20 הָיוּ בָּעִיר: בַּי אָדָם אֵין צַדֵּיק בָּאֶָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר יְעֲשֶׂה־מְּוֹב וְלְא 21 יְחֲמֶא: נַס לְבָל־הַדְּבָרִיםׂ אַשֶׁר יְדַבָּרוּ אַל־חָתֵן לְבֵּדְּ אַשֵּר לָאַרתִשְׁמַע אֶת־עַבְּדְּ 22 מָקַלְלֵד: בֵּי נַם־בְּעָמִים ָרַבְּוֹתיָדַעלָבֶּךְאֲשֵׁרנַם־אָת<u>ַּ</u> 23 קַלַּלָתַ אֲחָרֵים: כָּל־וֹה אָמֵרתִי בַּחָכְמֵּה אַחָבָּמָה וָהֵיא רְחוֹקָה מִפֶּנִּי: אַ רַחָּוֹקמַה־שֶּׁרָיָהוֹעָכְוֹק וּ עָכְוֹק 25 מֵר יָמִצְאֲנוּ: סַבּוֹתִי אֲנֵי וִלְבִּיׁ לַדַעַת וַלָּתוּר וּבַקשׁ חָכְמָה וְחָשְׁבָּוֹן וְלְדַעַתֹּ רָשַׁע בָּסֶל 26 וְהַסְּכְלִּוּת הְוֹלֵלְוֹת: וּמוֹצֶּא אַנִי מֵר מִפַּׁוַת אַת־הַאִּשָּׁהֹ אַשֶּׁר־הָיא מִצוֹרָים וַחֲרָמֵים לְבָה אַסוּרִים יָדֵיהָ שׁוֹב לִפְנֵי האַלהַים יַמַּלֵט מִמַּנַה וְחוֹמֵא יּצִלֶּכֶר בָּה: רְאֵהׁ זֶהַ מְצָּאתִי 27 אָמֶרֶה לְהֶלֵת אַחַת לִאַחַת 28 לָמְצָא חֶשְׁבְּוֹן: אֲשֵׁר עוֹד־־ בַּקשַׁה נַפִּשִׁי וִלְא מָצָאתִי אַדֶּם אָחַד מָאֶלֶף מָצָאתִי לָּא לָבַר : מצאתי 29 מָצָׁאתִי אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה הָאֱלֹהֵים אַת־הָאָדֶם יָשֶׁר וְהֵמָּה בִּקְשְׁוּ חָשָּׁבֹנִוֹת רַבֵּים:

דָבֶר חָכָמֵת אָדָם תָּאֵיר פַּנִּיו יַנֶּין יְשָׁנֵא: אֲנִי פִּירְנֵוּלֶדְ 2 וְעָז פָּנֶין יִשָּׁנֵא: שמר ועל דברת שבועת

וּ מֵי בְּהֶחְלֶם וּמִי יוֹרֵעַ בַּשֵּׁר זְיַרָעַ בַּשֵּׁר

ling of nettles under illusory; 7for cheatir man of reason and/d the cautious.g

8 The end of a matt ginning of it. Better a patient

spirit.

⁹Don't let your s for vexation abides in 10Don't say, "Hov former times were l it is not wise of you

11 Wisdom is as go even better, for tho 12For to be in the sh also in the shelter (vantage of intelliger serves the life of hir

13 i Consider Goo straighten what He time of good fortune and in a time of mis: no less than the othe sequently, man may

15In my own brie both these things: s ishes in spite of his a wicked one endur ness. 16So don't ov act the wise man t dumfounded. 17De and don't be a foo your time. 18 It is be without letting go fears God will do 19 Wisdom is mo

¹⁻¹ Emendation yields "the riches of the magnates"; cf. Prov.

m Apparently continuing the thought of v. 16

n Refers back to 6.12

^o The same idiom occurs again in 8.5

a-a Some ancient versions read: "Who here is wise,"

^b Lit. "face"; cf. I Sam. 1.18; Job 9.27

e-c Moved up from v. 3 for English word order

e This section, to end of verse of the thought in verses 11-1 f Emendation yields "riches"

⁸ Lit. "caution"; cf. post-bibli h Emendation yields "For the a possessor of money"

¹Verses 13-14 continue the th 1So Rashi; cf. the same thoug k Cf. post-biblical yaşa yede

יאתה ק' v. 22

SILSTES 8.13

13 וְשׁוֹב לְאריַהְיָה לֵו יַאֲרָידְ יָמֵים כַּצֵּּל 14 יַרָא מְלְפַנֵי אֵלוֹ הַבֶּל אֲשֶׁר נַעֲשָׁה וּ אַשֵּר וֹיִשׁ צַּדִיקִים אַלֶהֶם כִּמַעֲשֵׁה הַוּ שַׁמַנִינִע רשעים כִּמַצַשֵּׁה הַצַּּרִיקִי 15 שַׁנַּם־זוָה הַבֶּל: וְיֹ אָת־הַשִּׁמְחָה אֲשֵׁוּ לַאַרַם תַּחָת הַשָּׁבֵּ לַאֵבֹל וַלִשְׁתְּוֹת וְלִ יַלְוַנּוּ בָעֲמָלוֹ יְמֵי נתודלו 16 השמש: כאשר לבּי לַרַעַת חַכִּמָ אָת־הַעניון אַשֵּרנ הַאָרֵץ כִּי נַם כַּיּוֹ שֵׁנָה בִּעֵינָיו אֵי זונראיתי את־בּ האַלהִים בּי לא י למצוא אַת־הַמֵּי נַעֲשָׁה תַחַת־הַשַּׁ אָשֶּׁר יָעֲמָל הָאַוּ ולא ימצא ונם לָמָצָא:

י בָּי אָת־בָּל־זֶּה וּ לְבָיּר אָ אָשֶּׁר הַצִּדִּיקֵים תַעְבָדִיהֶם בִּיַרְ הָאֵ אָהָבָה נִם־שִּׂנְאָה אָהָבָה הַבִּל לִבְּנִי rush⁻⁶ into uttering an oath by God."^a ³ ^e-Leave his presence; do not tarry⁻⁶ in a dangerous situation, for he can do anything he pleases; ⁴ inasmuch as a king's command is authoritative, and none can say to him, "What are you doing?" ⁵One who obeys orders will not suffer from the dangerous situation.

A wise man, however, will bear in mind^f that there is a time of doom.^g ⁶For there is a time for every experience, including the doom; for a man's calamity^h overwhelms him.⁷ Indeed, he does not know what is to happen; even when it is on the point of happening, who can tell him? ⁸No man has authority over the lifebreath—to hold back the lifebreath; there is no authority over the day of death. There is no mustering out from that war; wickedness^f is powerless to save its owner.

9All these things I observed; I noted all that went on under the sun, while men still had authority over men to treat them unjustly. 10 And then I saw scoundrels *coming from the Holy Site and being brought to burial, *while such as had acted righteously were forgotten in the city.

And here is another frustration: ¹¹the fact that the sentence imposed for evil deeds is not executed swiftly, which is why men are emboldened to do evil—¹²the fact that a sinner may do evil a hundred times and his [punishment] still be delayed. For although

^d The answer to the inquiry about the implications of the proverb in v. 1 is given in the form of another proverb, of which only the first half is relevant and is enlarged upon

ee Or "Give ground before him; do not resist"

f The same idiom as in 7.22

E Lit. "time and doom"; cf. the synonymous "time of misfortune," lit. "time and misfortune," 9.11

h Still another term for death; cf. "the time of calamity" for "the hour of death," 9.12

From leaving the body when the time comes; see 12.7; cf. Ps. 104.29; 146.4

Emendation yields "riches"

k-k Meaning uncertain; emendation yields "approaching [to minister]. They would come and profane the Holy Site,"

TUTP ecclesiastes 8.3

אַל־הִים: אַל־הִּבְהַל מִפְּנִיוֹ מַלֵּדְ אַל־מִּעְמִּר בְּרָבֶר הֶע בַּל־אַשֶׁר יַחָפִּץ יַצְשֵׁה: 4 בַּאֲשֶׁר דְבַר־מֶלֶדְ שִׁלְטִוֹן וּמִי ז ּיָאמַר־לָוֹ מַה־תַּעֲשֶׂה: שׁוֹמֵר 5 יְאמַר־לָוֹ מַה־תַּעְ מִצְּוָה לָא יֵדֶע דְּבֶר בֶע וְעַת • וּמִשְׁפָּט וֵדָע לֵב חָבֶם: כִּי לְכָל־הַשָּׁפֶץ יַשׁ עַת וּמִשְׁפֵּט בָּי־רָעַת הָאָדֶם רַבָּה עַלֵיו: 7 כָּר־אֵינִנוּ יֹדֵעַ מַה־שַּׁיַהְיָה כַּי 8 בַּאַשֶׁר וָהָוָה מֵי וַנִּיד לוֹ: אֵין אַרֶּם שַׁלֵּים בַּרוּחַ לְכַלוֹא אֶת־־הָרוּתַ וָאֵין שָׁלְטוֹן בִּיוֹם אֶת הַבָּּעָרָת וָאֵין כִּישָׁכֵּיתַת בַּבִּּמִלְתַּמָה רשע ולא־יִמַלֵּט 9 בַּעָּלֵיו: אַת־בַּל־זָה רַאַּיתִיּ וְנָתַוֹן אֶת־לִבִּי לְכָל־מַעַשֵּׁה אַשֶּׁר נַעֲשָׂה הַחַת הַשָּׁמִשׁ עַׁת אַשֶּׁר שָׁלַט הָאָדֶם בּאָדֵם לִרַע 10 לְוֹ: וּבְבֵּן רָאִיתִיֹּ רְשֵׁעִים קברים נבאו וממקום קדוש יָהַלֵּכוּ וְיָשְׁתַּכְּחְוּ בָעֵיר אֲשֶׁר 11 בּּן־עָשָׁי נַּם־זָה הָבֶּל: אֵשֵׁר אַין־נַעֲשָׁה פָּתִנָּם מַעֲשֵׁה הָרָעָה מְהַרָה עַל־בַּוֹ מַלֵא בב בנידהאָדֶם בָּהֶם לַעֲשִׂוֹת ען: אַשֵּׁר חֹטָא עֹשֵּה רָע 12 מָאַת וּמָאֵרֵיךּ לְוֹ כָּי נַּם־יוֹדֵעַ אָנִי אַשֵּׁר וָהָוָה־פוֹב לְיָרָאֵי :הַאֱלֹהִים אֲשֵׁר וֵירָאִוּ מִלְּפָנֵיו

I am aware that "It will be well with those who revere God since they revere Him, ¹³ and it will not be well with the scoundrel, and he will not live long, because he does not revere God"—¹⁴here is a frustration that occurs in the world: Sometimes an upright man is requited according to the conduct of the scoundrel; and sometimes the scoundrel is requited according to the conduct of the upright. I say, all that is frustration.

¹⁵I therefore praised enjoyment. For the only good a man can have under the sun is to eat and drink and enjoy himself. That much can accompany him, in exchange for his wealth, through the days of life that God has granted him under the sun.

and to observe the business that goes on in the world—even to the extent of going without sleep day and night—17 and I have observed all that God brings to pass. Indeed, man cannot guess the events that occur under the sun. For man tries strenuously, but fails to guess them; and even if a sage should think to discover them, he would not be able to guess them.

9 For all this I noted, and I ascertained^a all this: that the actions of even the righteous and the wise are determined by God. ^b-Even love! Even hate! Man knows none of these in advance ²—none! ^b For the same fate is in store for all: for the righteous, and for the wicked; for the good and pure,^c and for the impure; for him who sacrifices, and for him who does not^a; for him who is pleasing,^c and

ecclesiastes 8.13

13 ומוב לא־יַהיַה לֶרָשָּׁע וּלְא־ יַאָּרָידְ יָמָים בַּצֵּל אֲשֶׁר אֵיעָּוּ 14 יָרֶא מִלְפְנֵי אֱלֹהִים: יֶשׁ־ הֶבֶל אֲשֶׁר נְעֲשָׂה עַל־הָאָרֶץ אָשֶׁר ו יָשׁ צַּדִּיִלִים אֲשֶׁר מַנֵּיִע אֱלֶהֶם כְּמַעֲשֵּׂה הָרְשָׁעִים וְיֵשׁ אַלהַם שַׁמַנִּיעַ בַּמֵצַשֵּׁה הַצַּּרִיקִים אָמַּׁרְתִּי 15 שֶׁנַּם־זוֶה הֶבֶל: וְשְׁבַּחְתִּי אֵנִי אֶת־הַשִּׂמְהָה אֲשֶׁר אֵין־מַוֹב לַאָּדָם הַחַת הַשֵּׁמִשׁ כֵּי אִם־ לָאֶבֶל וְלִשְׁתְּוֹת וְלִשְּׁמְוֹת וְהֿוּא יַלְנֶנֵּוּ בַעֲמָלוֹ יְמִי חַנָּיֵו אֲשֶׁר־ הָאֵלהִים עֿעֿעַת 16 השמש: בַאַשֶּׁר נָתַתִּי אַתּד לבּי לַדֵעַת חַכִּמָה וּלְרָאוֹת אֶת־הָעוּיָן אֲשֶׁרנִעֲשֶׁה עַל־ הָאֶרֶץ כֵּי נַםְ בַּיּוֹם וּבַלַּיִלָה שַׁנָּה בְּעֵינֵיו אֵינֵנוּ רֹאֵה: 17 וְרָאִיתִיּ אֶת־כָּל־מֵעַשֵּׁה האלהים כּי לא יוֹכַל הַאַדִּם לָמָצוֹא אֵת־הַמַּעשֵׁה אַשֵּׁר נַעַשָּה תַחָת־הַשָּׁמִשׁ אשר יעמל האדם לבקש וַלָא יִמְצֵא וֹנֵם אִם־יֹאמֵר הֶחָבָם לָדַעַת לְא יוּכֵל לְמָצָא:

י בָּי אֶת־בָּל־זֶּה נָתַמִּי אֶל־ לְבִּיֹ וְלָבָוּר אֶת־בְּל־זֶּה אֲשֶׁר הַצַּדִיקִים וְהַחֲכָמִים וַעֲבָדִיהֶם בְּיַדְ הָאֶלֹהֵים נַּם־ אָהָבָה וַם־שִּוֹאָה אֵין יוֹדֵעַ הַבְּל לִפְנֵיהֶם: הַבְּל rush-° into uttering 3 °-Leave his preser dangerous situation, he pleases; 4 inasmuc authoritative, and "What are you do orders will not suf situation.

A wise man, how that there is a time time for every ex doom; for a man' him.7 Indeed, he do happen; even whe happening, who ca authority over the the lifebreath; the the day of death. I from that war; wie save its owner.

9All these thing that went on unde had authority ove justly. 10 And then ing from the Holy burial, -k while suc were forgotten in

And here is and that the sentence not executed swif emboldened to c sinner may do evi [punishment] still

minister]. They would c

¹ See note on 6.12

^a Meaning of verb uncertain; construction as in Hos. 12.3; Ezra 3.12

b-b Emendation yields: "Even love, even hate, no man can know in advance. All (2) are insignificant."

c I.e. those who observe the laws of ritual purity

d Cf. 4.17

e I.e. to God; cf. 2.26; 7.26

d The answer to the inquiry proverb in v. 1 is given in which only the first half is ee Or "Give ground before"

^f The same idiom as in 7.22 ^g Lit. "time and doom"; cf. fortune," lit. "time and mi

h Still another term for deat.
"the hour of death," 9.12

i From leaving the body wh Ps. 104.29; 146.4

¹ Emendation yields "riches k-k Meaning uncertain; eme

esiastes 9.11

וְרַעַת וְחָכְמָה בִּ יו אַתַּרהֹלֵך שֱמָה: תַתַת־הַשָּׁמֶשׁ בְּי הַמֶּרוֹץ הַמִּלְתָּמָה וְנָם לְ לַחָם וֹנָם לָא לַ וְנָםַ לָא לַיִּרְעֵים יון נַפָּנַע יִקְרֵה אֶת־וּ לא־וַדַע הַאַּדַנ בַרָּגִים שֵׁנָאָחָזִינ רָעָה וָכַּצְפֶּרִים הַ בָהָם יִוּקְשִׁים בְּנֵי בְשֶׁתִפַּוֹל רַעַה 18 פַּחָאָם: נַּם־זָה רָ ַמַּתַת הַשָּׁמֵשׁ וּנִרוֹכֵ 14 עיר קטַנָּה וַאַנָשׁי וּבָא־אַלֵּיהָ מֵלַדְּ אֹלָזה וּבָנֵה עָלֶי 15 נְדוֹלֵים: וּמֲצָאבָו חַבֶּם וּמָלֵּט־הָוּא בַּחַכְמַתוֹ וָאַדַם לְ 16 הָאִישׁהַמִּסְבֵּן הַהְוּ אָנִי פוֹבֶה חָכְמֶּ וֹטַבְמַּת הַמִּסְבּן בִּ 17 אַינֶם נִשְׁמָעִים: דַּ בַנַחַת נִשְּׁמָעֵים מִּ 18 בַּבְּסִילֵים: טוֹוְ מָבָּלֵי קרֶבוּחוֹמֵא מובה הַרְבָּה:

י זְבָּוּבֵי מְנֶת יַבְאָילּ בּסָיק רוֹמָח יָקֶר מְחָבְּ לִמִינוֹ וָלֵב בִּסָיכּ לִמִינוֹ וָלֵב בִּסִיכּ

for him who is displeasing: and for him who swears, and for him who shuns oaths. ^f ³ That is the sad thing about all that goes on under the sun: that the same fate is in store for all. (Not only that, but men's hearts are full of sadness, and their minds of madness, while they live; and then-to the dead!) 4For he who is g-reckoned among-g the living has something to look forward to-even a live dog is better than a dead lion-5since the living know they will die. But the dead know nothing; they have no more recompense,h for even the memory of them has died. 6Their loves, their hates, their jealousies have long since perished; and they have no more share till the end of time in all that goes on under the sun.

⁷Go, eat your bread in gladness, and drink your wine in joy; for your action was long ago approved by God.ⁱ ⁸Let your clothes always be freshly washed, and your head never lack ointment. ⁹Enjoy happiness with a woman you love, all the fleeting days of life that have been granted to you under the sun—all your fleeting days. For that alone is what you can get out of life and out of the means you acquire under the sun. ¹⁰Whatever it is in your power to do, do with all your might. For there is no action, no reasoning, no learning, no wisdom in Sheol where you are going.

ecclesiastes

בַאַשֵּׁר לַבֹּל מִקַרָּה אֱחָׁר למוב וַלֶּרְשָׁע לַצַּרַיק ולובת וַלַמָּמָא וַלַמַּהור וַלַאַשֵּׁר אֵינגוּ וֹבֶחַ כְּטוֹב' בַּחֹטֵא הַנִּשְׁבֶּע בַאָשֵׁר שָׁבוּעַה יַרָא: זָה וּ רָע בְּכָּל אֲשֶׁר־ 3 יַרָא: זָה וּ נָעֲשָׂה תַּחַת הַשָּׁמִשׁ בִּי־מִקְרָה אֶחֶד לַבָּל וִנַם לֵב בְּנֵי־הָאָדָם מֶלֵא־רָע וְהָוֹלֵלְוֹת בִּלְבַבָּם אל־ בחייהם ואַחַכיו 4 הַמַּתִים: כֵּידמָי אֲשֶׁר יִבְּחָׁר אַל כָּל־הַחַיִים יַשׁ בִּשָּׁחָוֹן בַּי־לְבֵלֶב חַיֹּ הָוּא טוֹב מַן־ ַסַּאַרְיֵה הַמֵּת: כָּי הַחַיַּיִם סַּ יְוֹדְעֵים שֶׁיָּכָּוְתוּ וְהַמֵּתִּים אֵינָםְ יְוֹרְעֵים מְאֹּוּמָה וָאֵין־עַוֹר לָהֶם' שָּׁבָּר בִּי נִשְׁבַּח זִכְרֵם: • נַם אַהַבָּתָם נַם־שִּנְאָתֵם נַם־ קּנָאָתֶם כְּבֶר אָבֶדָה וָהֵׁלֶּק אַין־לָהַם עוֹד לְעוֹלַם בִּכְּל אַשַּׁר־נַעַשָּׂה מַחָת הַשַּּמִשׁ: זַלָּךְ אַכָּל בִּשִּׂמְחָה לַחְמֵּדְ וְשְׁתֵה בְּלֶב־מְוֹבוֵייֶנֶדְ בַּי בְבְּר רַצָּה הָאֱלֹהָים אַת־מַעַשֵּׁיף: 8 בְּכָל־עֵּת יָהְיִוּ בְנָדֶיף לְבָנִים יָשֶׁמֶן עַל־רָאשָׁדְּ אַל־יָחְסֶר: 9 ראָה חַיִּים עם־אָשָה אָשֵר־ אָהַבְתָּ כָּל־יְמֵי חַיֵּיַ הָבְלֶּף אַשֶּׁר נַתַּוֹ־לִף תַּחַת הַשָּׁמִשׁ בָּל יִמֵי הַבָּלֶדְּ בִּי הַוּא חֵלְקַדְּ בַּחַיִּים וּבַעַמֶלְדְּ אֲשֶׁר־אַתָּה 10 עָמֶל תַּחַת הַשָּׁמֵשׁ: בֿל אַשֵּׁר הִּמְצָא וֶרְךָּ לַעֲשְׂוֹת בְּכְחֲהַ עַשָּׂה כִּי אֵין כַועשָׂה וִחֶשְׁבּוֹן

f Cf. 8.2 8-8 Lit. "joined to all" h Emendation yields "hope"

¹ Cf. 2.24-25; 3.13; 5.18

¹¹I have further observed under the sun that

The race is not won by the swift, Nor the battle by the valiant; Nor is bread won by the wise, Nor wealth by the intelligent, Nor favor by the learned.

For the time of mischance^j comes to all.^k ¹²And a man cannot even know his time. As fishes are enmeshed in a fatal net, and as birds are trapped in a snare, so men are caught at the time of calamity,^j when it comes upon them without warning.

about wisdom, and it affected me profoundly. ¹⁴There was a little city, with few men in it; and to it came a great king, who invested it and built mighty siege works against it. ¹⁵Present in the city was a poor wise man ¹⁻who might have saved-¹ it with his wisdom, but nobody thought of that poor man. ¹⁶So I observed: Wisdom is better than valor; but

A poor man's wisdom is scorned, And his words are not heeded.

^{17 m}Words spoken softly by wise men are sooner heeded than those shouted by a lord in folly.ⁿ

18 Wisdom is more valuable than "-weapons of war," but a single error destroys much of value.

10 Dead flies turn the perfumer's ointment fetid and putrid; so a little folly outweighs massive wisdom.

²A wise man's mind tends toward the

ecclesiastes
9.11

וַדַעַת וָחָכִמָּה בִּשָּׁאוֹל אֲשֵׁר 11 אַתַּה הֹלֵךְ שֶׁבָּה: שַּׁבְתִּי וְרַאָּה תַחַת־הַשָּׁמֶשׁ בַּי לאֹ לַפַּלִּים לְגְבּוֹרֵים וַלָּא הַמַרוֹץ הַמָּלְחָמָה וְנֵם לָא לַחֲבָמֵים לֶחֶם וְנַם לָא לַנְבֹנִים עשׁר וְנַבֶּ לָא לַיִּרְעִים חֻן כִּי־עָת 12 וָפֶגַע יִקְרֶה אֶת־בָּלֶם: בִּי נַםֹ לא־יַרע הַאַרַם אַת־עָתּוֹ בַּדָנִים שׁנָאַחָזִים בִּמְצוֹרֶה רַעָּה וַכַּצְפָּרִים הָאָחָזוֹת בַּפָּח בָּהַם יִוּקשִׁים בְּנֵי הָאָדָם לְעֵת עליהם בשתפול 18 פַּרְאָם: נַם־זָה רָאַיתִי חָכְמֶה ַתַּחַתהַשָּׁמֶשׁוּנִדוֹלֶההָי**א**אַלֵי: 14 עַיר קַמַנָּה וַאֲנָשִׁים בֶּה מְעֵשׁ וּבָא־אַלֶּיהָ מֻלֶּדְ נָּדוֹל וְסָבַב אֹתָה וּבָנָה עָלֱיהָ מִצוֹדִים 15 גָּדוֹלֵים: וּמֶצָאבָהאֵישׁמְסָבּןֹ חָבָם וּמִלַּט־הָוּא אַת־הָעֵיר בְּחָכִמֶּתְוֹ וִאָּדָם לְאׁ זַבְּר אֵת־ יוּאָמֶרְתִּי הַּלְּסָבֵּן הַהְוּא: וָאָמֵרְתִּי וּאַ אָנִי שוֹבֶה חָכְמָה מִנְבוּרָה וְחָבְמַת הַמִּסְבֵּן בְּזוּיָה וּדְבָרֶיו 17 אַינֶם נִשְׁמָעֵים: דְּבְרֵי חֲכָמִים בְּנַחַת נִשְׁמָעֻים מִזְּעֲקַת מוֹשֶׁל 18 בַּבָּסִילֵים: מוֹבַה חָבְמָה מִכְּלֵי קְרֶב וְחוֹשֵּאאֶחָׁד יִאַבֵּד מובה הרבה:

יְבְּוּבֵי מְּׁנֶת יַבְאִישׁ יַבִּיעַ שֵּׁמֶּן רוֹאָחַ יָקָר מְחָבְמֶה מִבְּבְוֹד י סְבְלְוּח מְעֵט: לֵב חָבָם לִימִינוֹ וְלֵב בְּסָיל לִשְׁמֹאלְוֹ: for him who is di swears, and for hi is the sad thing a the sun: that the (Not only that, I sadness, and the they live; and th who is g-reckon something to lo dog is better th living know they nothing; they ha for even the m 6Their loves, t have long since more share till goes on under the

7Go, eat your your wine in jo ago approved la always be fresh never lack ointra woman you l life that have be sun—all your fle what you can a means you acquever it is in yo your might. Fo soning, no lea where you are

¹ Euphemism for death

k I.e. the insignificant duration of life renders all successes illusory; cf. 4.15–16

¹⁻¹ Others "who saved"

m 9.17 -10.19 is a group of loosely connected aphorisms

n Lit. "than the scream of a lord in [the manner of] the fools"

o-o Emendation yields "everything precious"

a Meaning of Heb uncertain

^c Cf. 8.2 S-S Lit. "joined to all" h Emendation yields "h Cf. 2.24-25; 3.13; 5.18

Clesiastes

דַבר: הַמְּלֵלְה הַשְּׁלֵים הֹלִין מִשְׁבְּרָּהְ אַלְּהִקּלֵים הִלָּין מִשְׁבְּרָּהְ אַלְּהִקּלֵי מָשְׁבְּרָּהְ אַלְּהִקּלֵי מָשְׁבְּרָהְ אַלְרַהְּלְּלֵי מָשְׁבְּרָהְ אַלְרַהְּלְּלֵי מָשְׁבְּרָהְ אַלְרַהְּלֵּלִי מָשְׁבְּרָהְ הַבְּשִׁתְי: בְּשְׁבְּלְיִּ מָשְׁבְּרָהְ הַבְּשִׁתְי: בְּשְׁבְּלִיּח מָלְבְרָ הַבְּשְׁתְי: בְּשְׁבְּלִיּח מִלְבָרָ הַבְּשְׁתִי: בְּשְׁבֵּלְיִּ

לא ז שַּׁלָח לַחְמְהַ עַל־פְּוּ בַּי־בָרָב הַיָּמֵים וּ לשבעו ז שורעל ³ לִשְּׁמוֹנָהַ כָּי לָא חֵוַ ּ יָהְיֵהָ רָעָה עַל־הָאָרַ 3 יָמֶלְאוּ הַעָבֵים נְּשֶׁ הָאָרֵץ יָרִיקוּ וְאָם־יִ בַּדַרוֹם ואָם בַּצָּפְוֹ 4 שַׁיִּפּוֹל הָעֵץ שֵׁם יְהָוּוּ רות לא יוכע וראה 5 לאיקצור: בַּאַשֵּראַ מַת־דַּרֵךְ הָרֹוּחַ (בָּבֶטֵן הַמָּלֻאָה כַּבָּהי אַת־מַעשה הָאֵלהִי 6 יַעֲשֶׂהֹאַת־הַכְּל: בַּנֹּ אָת־זַרִעַּדְּ וִלָּעֲרֵב וּ יַרָד כִּי אֵינָד יוֹדַעַ אֵי הַוָה אוֹ־וָֹה וִאָם ז בַּאֲחָר טוֹבֵים: וּמָחָוּ וִטְוֹב לֶעֵינִים לִרְאָוּ 8 הַשַּׁמֵשׁ: כֵּי אָם־שַׁנִיוּ יָחָיֶהָ הָאָרֶם בְּכֻּלֵּנ וַוָנַבּר אֶת־יָמֵי הַחֹּ

right hand, a fool's toward the left.^b ³A fool's mind is also wanting when he travels, and he lets everybody know he is a fool.

⁴If the wrath of a lord flares up against you, don't give up your post;⁶ for ^d-when wrath abates, grave offenses are pardoned.^{-d}

⁵Here is an evil I have seen under the sun as great as an error committed by a ruler: ⁶Folly was placed on lofty heights, while rich men sat in low estate. ⁷I have seen slaves on horseback and nobles walking on the ground like slaves.

⁸He who digs a pit will fall into it; he who breaches a stone fence will be bitten by a snake. ⁹He who quarries stones will be ⁶-hurt by them; he who splits wood will be harmed by ⁶ it. ¹⁰ ^fIf the ax has become dull and he has not whetted the edge, he must exert more strength. Thus the advantage of a skill [depends on the exercise of] prudence. ¹¹If the snake bites because no spell was uttered, no advantage is gained by the trained charmer.

¹²A wise man's talk brings him favor, but a fool's lips are his undoing. ¹³His talk begins as silliness and ends as disastrous madness. ¹⁴Yet the fool talks and talks!

^gA man cannot know what will happen; who can tell him what the future holds?

¹⁵ ^hA fool's exertions tire him out, for he doesn't know how to get to a town.

¹⁶Alas for you, O land whose king is a lackey, and whose ministers dine in the morning! ¹⁷Happy are you, O land whose king is a master, and whose ministers dine

ecclesiastes

ג ונם־בַּדֵרָדְ בִּשֵׁהַסָּכַל הֹלֵדְּ לְבָּוֹ חָמֵר וָאָמֵר לַבְּל סָבֶל אָם־רַוּתַ הַמּוֹשֵׁל תַּעֲלֵה עָלֵיך מִקוֹמָה אַל־ תַּנָּח בַּי מַרְפָּא יַנִּיחַ חֲטָאִים 5 נְרוֹלְים: יַשְׁרָעָהרָאֶיתִי תַּחַת הַשֶּׁמָשׁ בִּשְׁנָּה שֻׁיֹצֵא מִלּפִנֵי • הַשַּׁלִים: נִמַּן הַפָּבֶל בַּמְּרוֹמֵים רַבָּים וַעֲשָׁירֵים ז בַשֶּׁפַל וַשֵּׁבוּ: רַאַיתִּי עַבָּדִים 7 על־סוּסִים וְשַׁרֵים הָּלְבֵים 8 בַּעֲבָרִים עַל־הַאָּרֵץ: חֹפַר גוּמֶץ בָּוֹ יִפָּוֹל וּפֹרֵץ גַּדֶר פּ יִשְׁבַנוּ נָחָשׁ: מַסִּיעַ אַבְנִים פּ וַנָצֵב בָּהָם בּוֹקִע עַצִּים יַפֶּכֵן 10 בֶּם: אִם־קַהַה הַבַּרְזֵל וְהוּאׁ לא־פַנִים קלַלֵּל וַחֲיַלֵּים יַגַבָּר ווִתְרָוֹן הַכְשֵׁיר חַכְמַה: 11 אָם־יִשְׁׂהָ הַנְּחָשׁ בְּלוֹא־לֵחַשׁ וַאַין יִתְרוֹן לָבַעַל הַלַּשִוֹן: 12 דַּבָרֶי פִי־חַבֶּם חֲן וִשְׂפְּתִוֹת 13 בּסֵיל חָבַּלְעֻנוּ: הָתְלַת דַּבְרֵי־פֶּיהוּ סְכְּלָוּת וָאֲחֲרֵית 14 פִּיהוּ הָוֹלֵלְוּת רַעָה: וְהַסְּבֵּל דַבָּרִים לָא־יֵרַע הַאָּרָם מַה־שֶּׁיִהְיָה וַאֲשֶׁר נָהְיֵהֹ מֵאַחֲלֵיוּ מֵי יַנְּיד לְוּ: 15 עַמָל הַבְּסִילֵים הַיַּנְּעֵנוּ אֲשֶׁר לָא־יָרַע לָלֶכֶת אֶל־עִיר: 16 אִי־לֵדְ אֶׁרֶץ שֲׁמַלְבֵּדְ נָעַר זו ושכיד בַּבָּקר יאבלו: אַשְׁרִידִּ אָרֶץ שַׁמַּלְבֶּךְ בָּן־חוֹרָים ושרוד בַּעַת יאבלו בִּנְבוּרָה

^b I.e. a wise man's mind brings him good luck; a fool's brings him bad luck

c Emendation yields "hope"

d-d Lit. "abatement (II Chron. 36.16) remits grave offenses." For hinniah "to remit," cf. Abodah Zarah 13a; cf. hanahah, "remission of taxes," Esth. 2.18

ee Emendation yields "profit . . . shall make use of"

f Meaning of verse uncertain

⁸ The thought of this sentence is resumed at v. 20

h This verse continues the thought of v. 3

at the proper time—with restraint, not with guzzling!

18 Through slothfulness the ceiling sags,

Through lazy hands the house caves in. ¹⁹Theyⁱ make a banquet for revelry; wine makes life merry, and money answers every need.

²⁰ Don't revile a king even among your intimates^j.

Don't revile a rich man even in your bedchamber;

For a bird of the air may carry the utterance,

And a winged creature may report the word.

Il Send your bread forth upon the waters; for after many days you will find it. ²Distribute portions to seven or even to eight, for you cannot know what misfortune may occur on earth.

3If the clouds are filled, they will pour down rain on the earth; and ^a-if a tree falls to the south or to the north, the tree will stay where it falls. ^a 4If one watches the wind, he will never sow; and if one observes the clouds, he will never reap. ⁵ Just as you do not know how the lifebreath passes into ^b the limbs within the womb of the pregnant woman, so you cannot foresee the actions of God, who causes all things to happen. ⁶Sow your seed in the morning, and don't hold back your hand in the evening, since you don't know which is going to succeed, the one or the other, or if both are equally good.

⁷How sweet is the light, what a delight for the eyes to behold the sun! ⁸Even if a man

¹ I.e. the ministers of v. 16

1 Others "thoughts"; meaning of Heb uncertain

CClesiastes
10.18

זְּבֶר: זְּבֶר: זְּבֶר: בְּשָׁמִים יִּנְיִה הַּמְּבֶּרָה יִבְּיִה יִבְּיִה הַּמְּבָּרָה אַל־הְּקַלֵּל עָשִׁים יַבְּיָה זְּמֶלְה אַל־הְּקַלֵּל וּבְחַרְבֵיׁ זְּמֶלְה אַל־הְּקַלֵּל וּבְחַרְבִיּ זְמֶלֶה אָל־הְּקַלֵּל וּבְחַרְבִיּ מִשְׁבֶּבְהְ אַל־הְּקַלֵּל עִשְׁים מִשְׁבֶּבְהְ אַל־הְּקַלֵּל עִשְׁים זְמֶלְה אָל־הְּקַלֵּל עִשְׁים יִנְּיִם זְמָלְה אָל־הְּקַלְּלֵּל עָשִׁים זְבָּים יַנְּיִד זְבָּים יַנְּיִד זְבָּים יַנְּיִד זְבָּים יַנְּיָד

י בַּלָּיִם לַחְמְהַ עַל־פְּנֵיַ הַמָּיִם בַּלָּיִם בַּלָּיִם בַּלָּיִם בּי־בְרָב הַיָּמִים תִּמְצָאֵנּי: ונם לשבעה 2 תודחלק לִשָּׁמוֹנָה כָּי לָא חֵדַע מַה־ אַרֶץ: אָם־ נַלְּדְנֶהָ רָעָה עַלִּדְיָאָרֶץ: אַם־ יָמֶלְאֹר הֶעָבֶים נָּשֶׁם עַל־ הָאָָרֶץ יָרִיקוּ וְאָם־יִפְּוֹל עֵץ בַּבַּרָוֹם וֹאָם בַּצָּבְּוֹן מְקוֹם 4 שַּיּפָּוֹל הָעֵץ שַׁם יִהָוּא: שֹׁמֵר רות לא יוכע וראה בעבים 5 לאיקצור: בַּאֲשֶׁר אֵינִדְּיוֹרֶעַ מַה־דֶּרֶהְ הָרֹוּחַ בַּעַצָּמֵים בַּבַמֵּן הַמָּלֵאָה כָּכָה לָא חַרַע אָת־מַעֲשֵׂה הָאֱלֹהִים אַשֵּׁר 6 יַעֲשֵׂה אַת־הַבְּל: בַּבֹקר וְרַע אָת־זַרְעֶּׁךּ וְלְעֶרֶב אַל־חַּנַּחַ יָדֶדְ בִּיֹ אֵינְדְּ יוֹדֵע אֵי זַהַ יִבְשַׁר הַזָּה אוֹ־זָה וִאָם־שְׁנֵיהַם ז בַּאָחֶר טוֹבֵים: וּטָּחְוֹק הָאָוֹר וְטַוֹב לַעַינֵים לְרָאוֹת אָת־ 8 הַשַּׁמֵשׁ: כֵּי אָם־שַׁנִים הַרְבֵּה יַחִיֵה הָאָדָם בְּכָּלֶם יִשְּׂמֶח וווכר אַת־ומי הַחשׁר כֵּי

right hand, a foo fool's mind is also and he lets everybe 4If the wrath of

you, don't give up wrath abates, grave

sHere is an evil.
as great as an erro
Folly was placed
rich men sat in
slaves on horsebac
the ground like sk

8He who digs a breaches a stone snake. 9He who 6-hurt by them; he harmed by-6 it. 10 and he has not we exert more stren of a skill [depend dence. 11If the sn was uttered, no a trained charmer.

12A wise man's a fool's lips are l gins as silliness at ness. 14Yet the fo

doesn't know hor 16 Alas for you lackey, and who morning! 17 Happ

king is a master,

a-a Emendation yields, "if a thunderbolt (lit. arrow cf. e.g. II Sam. 22.15) falls . . . where the thunderbolt falls, only there will it strike"

^b So many mss. and Targum; most mss. read "like"

b I.e. a wise man's mind brin him bad luck

e Emendation yields "hope' d-d Lit. "abatement (II Chra For hinniah "to remit hanahah, "remission of ee Emendation yields "prol

f Meaning of verse uncerta B The thought of this sente

n This verse continues the

THE COLESIASTES
12.6

6 בַשִּׁוּק הַסְוֹפָּדִים: עַ לא־יַרַחַלְּ חֲבֶל הַבֶּּםֶ נַּלֵת הַזָּהָב וְתִּשֶּׁבֶר כַּ הַמַּבּוּעַ וְנָרְץ הַנַּלְנִי ז הַבְּוֹר: וַנְשָׁב הֶעָבָּוּ הָאָרֶץ כְּשֶׁהָיָה וְהָרָוּוּ אַל־הָאֵלהַים אַשֶּׁר 8 הֲבֶל הֲבָלִים אָמַר וַ 9 הַבָּל הַבָל: וִיֹהֵר קהֱלֵת חָבָם עוֹד לְמַּי אָת־הָעָם וָאַנָּן וְהָכֵּ 10 מְשָׁלִים הַרְבֵּה: בָּקַעׁ למצא דברי־חפץ ווּ וֹשֶׁר דִּבְרֵי אֱמֶת: חַבַמִּים בַּדֵּרַבנוֹתוּכִנַ נטועים בַּעַלֵי אַסְפִוֹ 12 מַרֹעָה אָחָר: וִיתֵר בְּנֶי הָזָהַר עֲשׁוֹת הַרְבָּה אָין בֹץ וְלְהַג

lives many years, let him enjoy himself in all of them, remembering how many the days of darkness are going to be. The only future is nothingness!

⁹O youth, enjoy yourself while you are young! Let your heart lead you to enjoyment in the days of your youth. Follow the desires of your heart and the glances of your eyes—but know well that God will call you to account for all such things—¹⁰ and banish care from your mind, and pluck sorrow out of your flesh! For youth and black hair are fleeting.

12 So appreciate your vigor^a in the days of your youth, before those days of sorrow come and those years arrive of which you will say, "I have no pleasure in them"; ²before sun and light and moon and stars grow dark, and the clouds come back again after the rain:

³ When the guards of the house^b become shaky,

And the men of valor are bent,

And the maids that grind,^d grown few, are idle,

And the ladies that peer through the windows grow dim,

4 And the doors to the street^f are shut— With the noise of the hand mill growing fainter,

And the song of the bird g-growing feebler,-g

And all the strains of music dying down;^h

5 When one is afraid of heights

ecclesiastes

11.9

הַרְבֵּה יִהְיָוּ כָּל־שֶׁבֵּא הַכָּל:

• שְׁמֵח בִּחֹנִי בְחִוּרוֹטִּיף וְהַלֵּהְ

• שְׁמֵח בִּחֹנִי בְחִוּרוֹטִיף וְהַלֵּהְ

• בְּרַבְי לְּבָּׁהְ וְּבְּמַרְאֵי עֵינֶוְהְ

• בְּרָבִי לְבָּׁהְ וְבְּמַרְאֵי עֵינֶוְהְ

• בְּלְהַיִם בַּמִּשְׁבָּמ: וְהָמֵרְ סִבְּשְׂרָהִים בַּמִּשְׁבָּמ: וְהָמֵרְ מִבְּשְׂרָהִים בַּמִּשְׁבָּמ: וְהָמֵרְ מִבְּשְׂרָהִים בַּמִּשְׁבָּמ: וְהָמֵרְ מִבְּשְׂרָהוּ הָבֶּל:

אַת־בְּוֹרָאֵדְּ בַּתְוּרֹתֵיךָ עַד אַשֵּׁר לְאדֹיָבֹאוּ יָבֵי הָרָעָה וָהִנֵּיעוּ שָׁנִים אַשֵּׁר האמַר אַין־לִי בָהֶם הַפַּץ: 2 עַֿר אָשֶׁר לְאַ־תַחְשַׁךְּ הַשַּׁמֵשׁ וָהָאוֹר וָהַיָּרֶחַ וְהַבְּוֹכָבֵים ישבו העבים אחר הגשם: 3 בַּיּוֹם שֵׁיַּוֹעוֹ שָׁמָרֵי הַבַּיִת וָהָתְעַוּתוּ אַנְשֵׁי הַחָיִל וּבַּטְלַוּ הטחנות כי מעטו 4 הַרֹאָוֹת בָּאַרְבְּוֹת: וְסִוּרָוּ דלהום בשוק בשפל קול השחנה ונקום לקול הצפור ז וַיַּשַׁתוּ כַּל־בִּנִוֹת הַשִּׁיר: נַם מָנַבָּהַ יִירָאוּ וִחַתִּחַתִּים בַּהַּרֵק וינאץ השָקר וִיסִתַּבֶּל הַחָנָב הָאָבִיוֹנָהָ בִּי־הֹלֵדְ הָאָדָם אַל־בָּית עַלָּמוֹ וְסְבְבִוּ

^a Cf. post-biblical bori; others "Remember thy Creator"

^b I.e. the arms

c I.e. the legs

d I.e. the teeth

c I.e. the eyes

I.e. the ears

g-g Exact meaning of Heb uncertain

h Cf. II Samuel 19.36

And there is terror on the road.-For the almond tree may blossom, i-The grasshopper be burdened,-i And the caper bush may bud again; But man sets out for his eternal abode, With mourners all around in the street.-

⁶ Before the silver cord snaps And the golden bowl crashes, The jar is shattered at the spring, And the jugk is smashed at the cistern.

⁷ And the dust returns to the ground As it was, And the lifebreath returns to God Who bestowed it.

8 Utter futility—said Koheleth— All is futile!

9A further word: Because Koheleth was a sage, he continued to instruct the people. He listened to and tested the soundness^m of many maxims. 10Koheleth sought to discover useful sayings and recordedⁿ genuinely truthful sayings. 11 The sayings of the wise are like goads, like nails fixed o-in prodding sticks.-0 p-They were given by one Shepherd.-p

12A further word: Against them, my son, be warned!

The making of many books is without limit

i-i Emendation yields "The squill (post-biblical Heb. hasab) resume its burden," i.e. its blossom-stalk and its leaves

¹ These plants, after seeming dead for part of the year, revive, unlike man. Cf. Job 14.7-10

k So in Punic; others "wheel"

1 Poetic figure for the end of life

^m A noun, like dibber (Jer. 5.13), which occurs in such postbiblical phrases as shanim kethiq (qe)nan, "normal years" (lit. "years according to their propriety")

n Wekhathub is equivalent to wekhathob, an infinitive employed as in Esth. 9.16 and elsewhere

0-0 Meaning of Heb uncertain. Others "are those that are composed in collections"

P-P Meaning of Heb uncertain. Emendation yields "They are accounted as a sharp ox-goad" (post-biblical mardea') q Emendation yields "Slow, there!" Cf. Arabic mah and

mah mah; so also mah (meh) in Prov. 31.2

12.6

6 בַּשָּׁוּלְ הַסְּוֹפְּרֵים: עַד אֲשֶׁר לא־יֵרֶםלָּ מֶבֶל הַבֶּּכֶף וְתָּרָץ ָּנָלָת הַזָּהֶב וְתִּשָּׁבֶר כֵּר עַלֹּ<u>־</u> הַמַּבֹּוּעַ וְנָרָץ הַנַּלְנַּלְ אֶל־ ז הַבְּוֹר: וָיָשָׁב הֶנְשָּב עַל־ הָאֶבץ בְּשֶׁהָיָה וְהָרַוּחַ הָּשׁׁוּב אַל־הַאֵלהִים אַשֵּׁר נְחָנֵה: 8 הַבֶּל הַבָּלֵים אָמֵר הַקּוֹהֵלֵת. פּ הַבָּל הַבַל: וְיֹהֵר שֵׁהָנִה לְהֶלֶת חָבָם עוֹד לְמַּר־הַּעַת אַת־הַעָּם נאַנון נְחַלֵּר תַּקָּוּ 10 מְשֶׁלֶים הַרְבָּה: בַּקֵשׁ לֹהֶלֶת למצא דברידתפין וכתוב 11 וַשֶּׁר דַּבְרֵי אֱמֵת: דַּבְרֵי חַבְמִים בַּדְּרָבֹנוֹתוּכְמַשְּׂמְרָוֹת נֹסוּמֹתם בֹּמֹלֵי אֲסׁבֹּוִע נִשְׁנֹוּ 12 מֱרֹעֶה אֶחֶר: וְיֹתֵר מַהַּמְּה בְּנַיְ הָזָהֵר עֲשׁוֹת סְפָּרֵים הַרְבָּה אָין לֵץ וְלְהַג הַרְבָּה

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h Cf. II Samuel 19.36

And much study is a wearying of the flesh.

13 The sum of the matter, when all is said and done: Revere God and observe His commandments! For this applies to all mankind: 14that God will call every creature to account for ^s-everything unknown, ^{-s} be it good or bad.

The sum of the matter, when all is said and done: Revere God and observe His commandments! For this applies to all mankind.



13 יְגַעַת בָּשֵּׁר: בּירַהְרָּכְל נְשְׁמֵע אָת־הָאֶלְהַים יְרָא יְאֶת־מִּצְוֹתִיו שְׁמוֹר בִּידְהָ 14 בָּל־הָאָדֶם: כַּי אָת־בָּל־ מַעֲשֶׁה הָאֶלֹהְים יָבָא בִמִשְׁפֶּט עַל בָּל־נָעְלֵם אִם־טְוֹב עַל בָּל־נֶעְלֵם אִם־טְוֹב יְאָם־רֵע:

סרף דבר הכל נשמע את האלהים ירא ואת מצותיו שמור כי זה כל האדם:

¹ Meaning of Heb uncertain

⁸⁻⁸ Emendation yields "all their conduct"