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Reflections

commonly called
Kohelet
(meaning 'The group leader')

Introduction

This collection of *Reflections* (commonly called *Ecclesiastes*), was written by a wise leader. Some of the proverbs here were written by King Shelomoh (Solomon), but there's also proverbs from other writers. The authors of these thought carefully about the meaning of life. They looked at everything that happens here in the world ('under the sun') to discover its purpose and to try to understand the meaning of life. They advise that it's necessary to respect and obey Yahweh, to strive to find happiness in our daily lives. (The meaning of Ecclesiastes is 'The group leader'. The title commonly used in English is a Latin transliteration of the Greek translation of the Hebrew word קֹהֶלֶת.) In Hebrew texts, this document is grouped in with 'The Writings (Ketuvim)'.

Main components of this document

Questions about life *1:1–2:26*
Truths about life *3:1–11:8*
The final advice *11:9–12:8*
Conclusion *12:9-14*

Lighter type marks additions. Underscores join parts of a single source word.
Struck words are untranslated. The ◘ sign marks a verse with no text.
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Readers' Version

1:1 The following are the words of the leader,[1] David's son, king in Yerushalem (Jerusalem):

Everything's meaningless

2 "Totally pointless," says the leader.
"A complete waste of time. Everything's worthless."
3 What profit does humanity gain from all their hard work in this world?
4 Generations come, and generations go,
but the world just carries on going.
5 The sun rises and the sun sets,
then rushes around to its place, rising there again.
6 Going to the south then around to the north,
the wind is going, changing, turning,
then it's returning on its rounds.
7 All the rivers flow into the sea but it never gets full.
The place that the rivers are going to, they end up going there again.
8 Everything is wearisome—not even worth talking about.
The eyes never stop seeing,
and your ears never fill up with everything they hear.
9 Whatever that was in the past, it will be in the future,
and everything that's happened before, will happen again.
There's nothing new in this world.[2]
10 If someone says, "Look at this—it's new,"
well, it was already done long ago before we even got here.
11 Things that happened in the past get forgotten,
and the same will also happen for future events.
People in the future will be exactly the same.

The persecution of wise

12 I, the leader, was king over Yisrael (Israel) in Yerushalem (Jerusalem).
13 I used my mind and wisdom to discover and to explore everything that is done in this world.
It's a difficult job that God has given humanity to be busy with.
14 I saw everything that gets done in this world,
and look—everything's pointless like chasing after the wind.
15 Something that's bent can't be straightened again,
and what's missing can't be counted.
16 I spoke with sincerity, saying, "Look at me—I've become powerful,
and I've increased in wisdom relative to everyone who ruled before me here in Yerushalem (Jerusalem).[3]
My mind has acquired much knowledge and wisdom."
17 I made it my aim to discover knowledge and wisdom versus madness and folly.
I was aware that that also is chasing after the wind
18 because having much wisdom leads to much frustration
and anyone who's adding knowledge is also adding pain.
2:1 I said to myself,
"Come on, let me find out what's good and enjoy the pleasure from them."

Literal Version

1:1 The_words/messages_of Teacher the_son_of Dāvid king in_Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem).
2 Futility_of futilities Teacher he_said futility_of futilities (the)_everything is_futility. **3** What advantage belongs_to_ _humankind in_all toil_of_his which_he_toils under the_sun. **4** A_generation is_going and_a_generation is_coming and_ _the_earth forever_perpetuity is_continuing. **5** And_ the_sun _it_rises and_ the_sun _it_goes and_near/to place_of_its it_is_ _panting it is_rising there. **6** It_is_going to the_south and_it_ _is_circling to the_north circling_around circling_around the_wind is_going and_on its_of_circuits the_wind is_ _returning. **7** All_of the_rivers are_going to the_sea and_the_ _sea not_it is_full to the_place_of (of)_where_the_rivers are_ _going there they are_returning to_go. **8** All_of (the)_things are_wearisome not anyone he_is_able to_speak_them not an_ _eye it_is_satisfied to_see and_not an_ear it_is_filled from_ _hearing. **9** Whatever (that)_it_has_been it is_that_which_it_ _will_be and_whatever (that)_it_has_been_done it is_that_ _which_it_will_be_done and_there_is_not any_of new_thing under the_sun. **10** Is_there anything which_anyone_will_say see this is_new it already it_has_been to_ancient_times which it_was from_before_face_of_us. **11** There_is_not remembrance_of things and_also of_things which_they_will_ _be not it_will_be to/for_them remembrance with those_ _who_they_will_be to_time.

12 I Teacher I_was king over Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) in_ _Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem). **13** And_I_gave ~~DOM~~ heart_of_my to_study and_to_discover by_wisdom on all that it_has_been_ _done under the_heavens it is_a_business evil god which_he_ _has_given to_the_children_of the_humankind to_be_busy in/on/over_him/it. **14** I_have_seen ~~DOM~~ all_of the_works which_they_have_been_done under the_sun and_ _BEHOLD/LO/SEE (the)_everything is_futility and_striving_of wind. **15** That_which_is_bent not it_is_able to_become_ _straight and_something_missing not it_is_able to_be_ _numbered. **16** I I_have_spoken with heart_of_my to_say I HERE I_have_made_great and_I_have_increased wisdom above every one_who he_was to/for_my_face/front over Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem) and_heart_of_my it_has_seen much wisdom and_knowledge. **17** And_I_gave heart_of_my to_know wisdom and_to_know madness(es) and_folly I_knew that_also this it is_a_striving_of wind. **18** If/because is_in_abundance_ _of wisdom abundance_of frustration and_someone_will_ _increase knowledge he_will_increase pain.
2:1 I I_said in_heart_of_my come please let_me_put_you_to_ _the_test with_pleasure and_look on_good and_ _BEHOLD/LO/SEE also it was_futility. **2** Of_laughter I_said it_ _is_mad and_of_pleasure what this is_it_doing. **3** I_searched in_heart_of_my to_gratify with_wine ~~DOM~~ flesh_of_my and_ _heart_of_my was_guiding with_wisdom and_to_take_hold on_folly until that I_saw where this is_good for_the_children_

1 RV 1:1 · Note We don't have enough information to fully understand the meaning of the Hebrew word 'קֹהֶלֶת' (Kohelet), but it probably means something like 'leader/speaker of the assembly', so we use 'the leader' throughout this document.

2 RV 1:9 · Note 'Under the sun' isn't a natural English idiom

3 RV 1:16 · Cross-ref. 1Ki 4:29-31.

Literal Version

_of the_humankind which they_will_do under the_heavens the_number_of the_days_of their_lives_of_their. **4** I_made_ _great works_of_my I_built to_me houses I_planted to_me vineyards. **5** I_made to_me gardens and_parks and_I_planted in/among_them tree[s]_of every_of fruit. **6** I_made to_me pools_of water to_water from_them a_forest_of sprouting_of trees. **7** I_acquired male_slaves and_female_slaves and_the_ _sons house he_belonged to_me also livestock herd[s] and_ _flock[s] many it_belonged to_me from_all those_who_they_ _were to/for_my_face/front in_Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem). **8** I_ _gathered to_me also silver and_gold and_treasure_of kings and_(the)_provinces I_acquired to_me male_singers and_ _female_singers and_the_delights_of the_children_of the_ _humankind breast and_breasts. **9** And_I_became_great and_ _I_increased from_all one_who_he_was to/for_my_face/front in_Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem) also wisdom_of_my it_remained to/for_me. **10** And_all/each/any/every that eyes_of_my they_ _asked not I_withheld from_them not I_restrained ~~DOM~~ heart_ _of_my from_all pleasure if/because heart_of_my was_joyful from_all toil_of_my and_this it_was reward_of_my from_all toil_of_my. **11** And_ I _I_turned in_all works_of_my which_ hands_of_my _they_had_done and_on_toil which_I_had_ _toiled for_doing and_BEHOLD/LO/SEE (the)_everything was_ _futility and_striving_of wind and_there_was_not advantage under the_sun. **12** And_ I _I_turned to_see wisdom and_ _madness(es) and_folly if/because what the_humankind who_he_will_come after the_king ~~DOM~~ that_which already people_have_done_it. **13** And_ I _I_saw that_is advantage of_ _wisdom more_than (the)_folly like_the_advantage_of the_ _light more_than the_darkness. **14** The_wise_person eyes_of_ _his are_in_head_of_his and_the_fool in_darkness is_walking and_ also I _I_knew that_fate one it_will_happen_to ~~DOM~~ of_ _them_of_all. **15** And_ I _I_said in_heart_of_my like_the_fate_ _of the_fool also me it_will_happen_to_me and_for_what I have_I_become_wise then excessively and_I_said in_heart_of_ _my that_also this is_futility. **16** If/because there_is_not remembrance_of man with the_fool for_a_long_time in_that_ _already the_days the_(ones_who)_went (the)_everything it_ _has_been_forgotten and_how the_wise_person he_will_die with the_fool. **17** And_I_hated ~~DOM~~ (the)_life if/because was_ _evil on_me the_work which_it_was_done under the_sun if/because (the)_everything is_futility and_striving_of wind. **18** And_ I _I_hated ~~DOM~~ all_of toil_of_my which_I was_toiling under the_sun that_I_will_leave_it to_person who_he_will_be after_me. **19** And_who is_knowing a_wise_person will_he_be or a_fool and_he_will_have_power in_all toil_of_my which_I_ _have_toiled and_which_I_have_been_wise under the_sun also this is_futility. **20** And_ I _I_turned to_make_despair ~~DOM~~ heart_of_my on all_of the_toil which_I_have_toiled under the_sun. **21** If/because there_is a_person who_toil_of_his was_with_wisdom and_with_knowledge and_with_skill and_ _to/for_humankind who_not he_toiled in/on/over_him/it he_will_give_it portion_of_his also this is_futility and_an_evil great. **22** If/because what is_becoming to_person in_all toil_

Readers' Version

But look, it was also pointless.
2 To laughter, I said, "It's madness,"
and to joy, "What's the point of this?"
3 I explored in myself how to indulge my body with wine, but my mind was guiding me in wisdom.
Also, how to grasp foolishness
until I could see whether that's better for humanity to do while they live out their lives here on this earth.
4 I expanded my program of works.
I built houses for myself.
I planted vineyards for myself.[4]
5 I made gardens for myself, and royal parks,
and I planted all different kinds of fruit trees in them.
6 I constructed pools for myself
to irrigate a forest of growing trees.
7 I acquired male and female servants,
and the children born to them belonged to me.
Also a large number of sheep and cattle belonged to me—
more than all my predecessors in Yerushalem (Jerusalem).[5]
8 I also accumulated gold and silver for myself,
and treasure from kings and from the provinces.[6]
I appointed male and female singers for myself,
and the pleasures of the sons of humanity—many women.
9 So I became famous,
and I added more than all who preceded me in Yerushalem.[7]
Also my wisdom stayed with me.
10 Everything my eyes wanted, I gave them.
I didn't hold back from anything that would make me happy,
because I was happy inside from all my work
and that was my reward from all my effort.
11 And I turned, I, to all the things that I'd made
and to the work that I'd done,
and look, everything was pointless and chasing after the wind,
and there wasn't any profit in anything done in this world.
12 Then I changed direction to investigate wisdom and madness and folly,
because what could any future king do that hasn't already been done?
13 I saw that wisdom is to be preferred over folly,
just as light is to be preferred over darkness.
14 The wise person uses their eyes,
but the fool walks in the darkness,
and even I know that the same fate comes to both of them.
15 I said to myself, "The fool's end will also come to me,
so what use was it being so wise back then?"
Then I told myself that that also is pointless,
16 because neither the wise person nor the fool will be remembered forever,

4 **RV 2:4-8 · Cross-ref.** 1Ki 10:23-27; 2Ch 9:22-27.

5 **RV 2:7 · Cross-ref.** 1Ki 4:23.

6 **RV 2:8 · Cross-ref.** 1Ki 10:10,14-22.

7 **RV 2:9 · Cross-ref.** 1Ch 29:25.

Readers' Version

as they'll both be forgotten in the days to come—
and how strange it is that the wise die just like the fool!
17 Then I hated life because of the misfortune around me—
the work that was done in this world,
because everything was pointless and chasing after the wind.
18 Then I hated all the work that I'd done in this world
that will get left to those who follow me after I go.
19 And who knows whether my successor will be wise or a fool?
He'll have authority over all my projects that I worked hard on
and which I've applied wisdom to in this world.
That also was pointless.
20 Then I changed to despairing over all the projects in this world that I'd worked hard on,
21 because there are people whose work is in wisdom and knowledge, and in skill.
However, then a person who hasn't worked on it, will gain it as their inheritance.
That also is pointless and a great misfortune
22 because what does a person get in exchange for all their work and their goals in life that they work towards in this world?
23 Because all his days are painful, and anger is his business—
even in the night, his mind doesn't rest.[8]
That also is pointless.
24 There's nothing better for humanity other than eating and drinking,
and genuinely enjoying their hard work.[9]
Also I saw that that comes from God
25 because who could eat and enjoy life apart from him?
26 Yes, he gives wisdom and knowledge and happiness to people who are good in his sight.[10]
But to the sinner, he gives the job of gathering and collecting to give to the one who's good in God's sight.
That also is pointless and chasing after the wind.

A right time for everything

3:1 There's an appointed time for everything,
and an appropriate time for every activity in this world:
2 A time to give birth and a time to die.
A time to plant and a time to pull out what was planted.
3 A time to kill and a time to heal.
A time to tear down and a time to build up.
4 A time to cry and a time to laugh.
A time to mourn and a time to dance.
5 A time to throw stones and a time to pick up stones.
A time to embrace and a time to avoid embracing.
6 A time to search and a time to lose.

Literal Version

_of_his and_in_the_striving_of his_heart_of_his[11][12][13] which_
_he was_toiling under the_sun. **23** If/because all_of his/its_
_days are_pains and_is_vexation business_of_his also in_night
not his/its_heart it_rests also this is_futility it. **24** There_is_
_not good for_person that_will_eat and_he_will_drink and_
_he_will_show ~~DOM~~ self_of_his good in_toil_of_his also this I I_
_have_seen if/because_that is_from_the_hand_of the_'Elohīm
it. **25** If/because who will_he_eat and_who will_he_enjoy
outside from_me. **26** If/because to/for_'Ādām/humankind
who_is_good before_him he_gives wisdom and_knowledge
and_joy and_to_sinner he_gives the_business to_gather and_
_to_gather to_give_it to_a_person_good to_(the)_face_of/in_
_front_of/before the_'Elohīm also this is_futility and_
_striving_of wind.

3:1 Belongs_to_everything an_appointed_time and_a_time
to/from_all/each/any/every matter under the_heavens. **2** A_
_time to_give_birth and_a_time to_die a_time to_plant and_a_
_time to_pluck_up that_which_is_planted. **3** A_time to_kill
and_a_time to_heal a_time to_break_down and_a_time to_
_build. **4** A_time to_weep and_a_time to_laugh a_time_of to_
_mourn and_a_time_of to_leap_about. **5** A_time to_throw_
_away stones and_a_time_of to_gather stones a_time to_
_embrace and_a_time to_be_far from_embracing. **6** A_time
to_seek and_a_time to_count_as_lost a_time to_keep and_a_
_time to_throw_away. **7** A_time to_tear and_a_time to_sew a_
_time to_be_silent and_a_time to_speak. **8** A_time to_love
and_a_time to_hate a_time_of warfare and_a_time_of peace.

8 **RV 2:23 · Cross-ref.** Yob 5:7; 14:1.

9 **RV 2:24 · Cross-ref.** Ecc 3:13; 5:18; 9:7; Isa 56:12; Luk 12:19; 1Cor 15:32.

10 **RV 2:26 · Cross-ref.** Yob 32:8; Prv 2:6.

11 **LV 2:22 · Note** OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.

12 **LV 2:22 · Note** OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.

13 **LV 2:22 · Note** OSHB note: We read one or more vowels in L differently from BHS.

Literal Version

9 What is_the_advantage_of the_one_who_works in_that_ _which he was_toiling. **10** I_have_seen ~~DOM~~ the_business which god he_has_given to_the_children_of the_humankind to_be_busy in/on/over_him/it. **11** ~~DOM~~ (the)_everything he_ _has_made beautiful in_time_of_its also ~~DOM~~ (the)_perpetuity he_has_put in_heart_of_their from_not_of which not the_ _humankind he_will_find ~~DOM~~ the_work which the_'Elohīm he_has_done from_beginning and_unto end. **12** I_know if/because_that there_is_not good for_them if/because (if) to_rejoice and_to_do good in_life_of_his. **13** And_also every_of the_humankind who_he_will_eat and_he_will_drink and_he_ _will_see good in_all toil_of_his is_a_gift_of god it. **14** I_know if/because_that all that the_'Elohīm he_does it it_will_be forever_perpetuity on/upon/above_him/it there_is_not to_ _add and_from_it there_is_not to_take_away and_(the)_god he_has_acted that_people_will_fear from_before_face_of_him. **15** Whatever (that)_it_is has_been_already it and_which to_be already it_has_been and_(the)_god he_will_seek ~~DOM~~ that_ _which_was_pursued.

16 And_again I_have_seen under the_sun the_place_of (the)_ _justice was_(to)_(to) (the)_wickedness and_the_place_of (the)_righteousness was_(to)_(to) (the)_wickedness. **17** I I_ _said in_heart_of_my ~~DOM~~ the_righteous and_~~DOM~~ the_wicked the_'Elohīm he_will_judge if/because a_time to/from_ _all/each/any/every matter and_on every_of (the)_deed there. **18** I I_said in_heart_of_my on the_cause_of the_ _children_of the_humankind to_test_them the_'Elohīm and_ _to_see that_they are_animal[s] they to/for_them. **19** If/because the_fate of_the_children_of the_humankind and_the_fate the_cattle/livestock and_fate one to/for_them like_the_death_of this so the_death_of this and_spirit one belongs_to_all and_the_advantage_of the_humankind is_ _more_than the_cattle/livestock not if/because (the)_ _everything is_futility. **20** (The)_everything is_going to place one (the)_everything it_was from the_dust and_(the)_ _everything is_returning to the_dust. **21** Who is_knowing the_spirit_of the_children_of the_humankind which_is_ _going_up it (to)_upwards and_spirit the_cattle/livestock which_is_going_down it (to)_downwards to_earth. **22** And_I_ _saw if/because_that there_is_not good more_than_that the_ _humankind he_will_take_pleasure in_work(s)_of_his if/because it portion_of_is_his if/because who will_he_bring_ _him to_see on_whatever (that)_it_will_be after_him. **4:1** And_ I _I_returned and_I_saw ~~DOM~~ all_of the_oppression(s) which were_being_done under the_sun and_BEHOLD/LO/SEE the_tear[s]_of the_oppressed and_there_was_not to/for_them a_comforter and_was_from_the_hand_of their_oppressors power and_there_was_not to/for_them a_comforter. **2** And_ I _I_commended ~~DOM~~ the_dead_people who_already they_had_ _died more_than the_living who they were_alive pleasure_ _still. **3** And_good more_than_of_both_of_them ~~DOM~~ one_who still not he_has_been one_who not he_has_seen ~~DOM~~ the_ _activity (the)_evil which it_is_done under the_sun. **4** And_ I _

Readers' Version

A time to keep and a time to toss out.
7 A time to tear and a time to mend.
A time to be silent and a time to speak up.
8 A time to love and a time to hate.
A time for war and a time for peace.

Enjoying life and work

9 What do people gain from all the work they do?

10 I've seen the task that God has given people to keep them occupied.
11 God makes everything happen at the appropriate time.
Also, he puts the awareness of eternity into the human mind,
yet humanity can't grasp what God has done from the beginning to the end.
12 I know that there's nothing better for them
than being cheerful and doing good during their lives
13 and everyone should eat and drink and see good in everything they do—
that's a gift from God.
14 I know that everything God does will be enduring.
There's nothing that needs to be added to it, or taken away,
and God has done it like that so that people will respect and want to obey him.
15 Whatever there is, it already was,
and whatever is to be, it already is,
and God will watch whatever's being worked on.

Not/None correct judging here of world

16 Then again I saw in this world at the place of judgement, there was wickedness,
and at the place of righteousness, there was wickedness.
17 I said to myself, "God will judge the righteous and the wicked,
because there's a time for every matter, and for every action to be judged."
18 I said to myself, "God tests humanity
so they can see that they themselves are like animals
19 because the same one thing happens to both people and animals:
just like one dies, so does the other—they both have the same breath.
But people have no advantage over animals—everything is pointless.
20 Both go to the same place—
both came from the dust and both return to the dust.
21 Who can know that a person's spirit is the one going up—upwards,
and the animal's spirit is the one going down—downwards to the earth?
22 Then I saw that there is nothing better than that people would enjoy their work,
because that's their assignment.
Yes, who can see what will happen to them after they die?
4:1 Then I turned and I saw all the oppression around the world,
and, look, see the tears of the oppressed
but there was no one to comfort them.

Readers' Version

The oppressors exerted their power against them,
but there was no one to comfort the oppressed.
2 So I praised those who were dead—who've already died,
more than the living—those who are still alive.
3 But better than both of them, is the one who hasn't yet lived—
who hasn't seen the evil things that are being done in this world.
4 Then I noticed all the skills used and the work that gets done,
but also saw that it raised the envy of others.
That is also pointless and chasing after the wind.
5 The fool folds his hands together instead of working
and ends up ruining himself.
6 A small handful of quietness is better
than two very full handfuls of work and chasing after the wind.
7 Then I turned and I saw a pointless thing in this world:
8 Sometimes there's a person living alone without a child or a relative, who works hard without stopping.
However, wealth doesn't satisfy them because they wonder why they're working so hard and not sitting down to enjoy their good things.
That also is pointless, and it's an unpleasant business.
9 Two people are better than one.
because their working together can give a better result.
10 Yes, if they fall, one person can help his companion up,
but it wouldn't end so well if one person falls alone
and there's no second person to help them.
11 Similarly, if two people lie down together, they can help each other stay warm,
but how can one person stay warm by themself?
12 And even if one person would be easily overpowered,
two people could stand against an attacker.
A three-stranded rope can't be easily broken.
13 A poor but wise youth is better off
than an old but foolish king who can't accept advice,
14 because coming from a family who'd spent time in prison, he made it to become king—yet even in his kingdom he was born poor.
15 I saw all those walking around in this world with the next child who will rule after him—
16 there was no end to all the people who've ruled before them.
Even the ones who follow him won't speak kindly about him,
because even that is pointless and chasing after the wind.
5:1 Watch your step when you go to God's house.

Be careful of your words

Going in to listen is better than fools who offer sacrifices,
because they don't realise that what they're doing there is evil.

Literal Version

_I_considered ~~DOM~~ all_of the_toil and_~~DOM~~ all_of the_skill_of the_work that/for/because/then/when it is_envy_of everyone from_neighbour_of_his also this is_futility and_ _striving_of wind. **5** The_fool is_folding ~~DOM~~ hands_of_his and_he_is_eating ~~DOM~~ flesh_of_his_own. **6** Is_good the_ _fullness_of a_palm_of quietness more_than_the_fullness_of the_hollow_of_hands toil and_striving_of wind. **7** And_ I _I_ _returned and_I_saw futility under the_sun. **8** There_was one_ _person and_there_was_not a_second_person also a_son and_ _a_brother there_belonged_not to_him/it and_there_was_not an_end to/from_all/each/any/every toil_of_his also mmm[14] not it_was_satisfied wealth and_for_whom am_I toiling and_ _depriving ~~DOM~~ self_of_my from_good also this is_futility and_is_a_business evil it. **9** Are_good (the)_two_people more_ _than the_one that there_is to/for_them a_reward good for_ _toil_of_their. **10** If/because if they_will_fall_down the_one he_will_raise ~~DOM~~ companion_of_his and_woe_to_him the_ _one who_he_will_fall_down and_there_is_not a_second_ _person to_raise_him. **11** Also if two_people they_will_lie_ _down and_it_will_be_warm to/for_them and_to_one_person how will_it_be_warm. **12** And_if someone_will_overpower_ _him the_one the_two_people they_will_stand before_him and_the_thread (the)_threefold not (in)_quickly it_will_be_ _torn_apart. **13** Is_good a_youth poor and_wise more_than_a_ _king old and_a_fool who not he_knows to_be_warned still. **14** If/because from_the_house_of the_prisoners he_came_out to_become_king if/because also in_his_own_of_kingdom he_ _had_been_born poor. **15** I_saw ~~DOM~~ all_of the_living who_ _are_walking_about under the_sun with the_youth the_ _second who he_will_arise in_place_of_him. **16** There_is_not an_end to/from_all/each/any/every the_people to_ _all/each/any/every those_whom he_was before_them also the_subsequent_people not they_will_rejoice in_him/it if/because also this is_futility and_a_striving_of wind.

17 **16** Guard mmm[17] just_as you_will_go to the_house_of the_ _'Elohīm and_draw_near to_listen more_ the_fools _than_to_ _give a_sacrifice if/because not_they are_knowing for_doing evil.
5:1 **18** Do_not be_hasty on mouth_of_your and_heart_of_your not let_it_hasten to_bring_forth a_matter to_(the)_face_

14 **LV 4:8 · Note** OSHB variant note: יניע/וֹ: (x-qere) יִנִּיעַ/וֹ: lemma_5869 a n_1.0 morph_HNcbsc/Sp3ms id_21ycY יִנִּיעַ/וֹ
16 **LV 4:17 · Note** Note: KJB: Eccl.5.1
17 **LV 4:17 · Note** OSHB variant note: ילנר/ךָ: (x-qere) לְנָרְךָ/: lemma_7272 n_1.2.1 morph_HNcfsc/Sp2ms id_21to2 לְנָרְךָ/
18 **LV 5:1 · Note** Note: KJB: Eccl.5.2

Literal Version

_of/in_front_of/before the_'Elohīm if/because the_'Elohīm is_in_heavens and_you(ms) are_on the_earth/land therefore yes/correct/thus/so[19] let_them_be words/messages_of_your few. 2 [20] If/because the_dream it_comes with_abundance_of business and_the_voice_of a_fool with_a_multitude_of words/messages. 3 [21] Just_as you_will_vow a_vow to_god do_ _not delay to_pay_it if/because there_is_not pleasure in_fools ~~DOM~~ that_which you_will_vow pay. 4 [22] Is_good which/who not you_will_vow more_that_you_will_vow[232425] and_not you_will_pay. 5 [26] Do_not permit ~~DOM~~ mouth_of_your to_ _cause_to_sin ~~DOM~~ flesh_of_your and_do_not say to_(the)_ _face_of/in_front_of/before the_messenger if/because_that was_inadvertence it to/for_what the_'Elohīm will_he_be_ _angry towards voice_of_your and_he_will_ruin ~~DOM~~ the_ _work_of your_two's_hands_of_your. 6 [27] If/because in_ _abundance_of dreams and_futilities and_words/messages many if/because ~~DOM~~ the_'Elohīm fear.

7 [29] If oppression_of one_who_is_poor and_robbery_of justice and_righteousness you_will_see in_province do_not be_ _astonished on the_matter if/because a_high_one from_ _under a_high_one[303132] is_watching and_high_ones over_ _them. 8 [33] And_the_profit_of a_land is_in_everything it[34] a_ _king to_a_field he_has_been_served. 9 [35] one_who_loves silver not he_will_be_satisfied silver and_whoever is_loving (in)_wealth not income also this is_futility. 10 [36] When_ the_ _good _increases those_of_who_consume_it they_increase and_what profit belongs_to_owner(s)_of_its if/because (if) the_sight_of[37] his_eyes_of_his. 11 [38] Is_sweet the_sleep_of the_labourer whether a_little and_if much he_will_eat and_ _the_plenty of_person not_it is_permitting to_him/it to_ _sleep. 12 [39] There_is an_evil severe which_I_have_seen under the_sun wealth was_being_kept by_owner(s)_of_its to_harm_

Readers' Version

2 Don't speak out too quickly,
and don't let your emotions rush to make you request something from God,
because God is in the heavens,
but you're on the earth, so let your words be few.
3 A dream can lead to a lot of panic,
and a fool's voice brings many words.
4 When you promise something to God,
don't put off doing what you promised
because no one likes fools.
Whatever you promise, do it![15]
5 It's better not to make a promise
than to promise something and then not do it.
6 Don't allow your mouth to cause your whole body to sin,
and don't tell the temple messenger that it was an unintentional sin.
Why make God angry by what you say
and destroy the good things that you've done?
7 Yes, there's many dreams and pointless things and many words—
just respect and strive to obey God.

Not/None purpose of wealth

8 If you see the extortion of the poor
and the perversion of justice and righteousness in the provinces,
don't be amazed about it because a high official is watching over another official,
and higher ones are watching over them.
9 Land is an advantage for everyone—the king gets served from the countryside.
10 A person who loves money won't be satisfied with it,
and anyone who loves wealth won't be satisfied with their income.
That's also pointless.
11 When material goods increase, people's consumption in-

15 **RV 5:4 · Cross-ref.** Psa 66:13-14.

19 **LV 5:1 · Note** OSHB note: We read one or more accents in L differently from BHQ.

20 **LV 5:2 · Note** Note: KJB: Eccl.5.3

21 **LV 5:3 · Note** Note: KJB: Eccl.5.4

22 **LV 5:4 · Note** Note: KJB: Eccl.5.5

23 **LV 5:4 · Note** OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.

24 **LV 5:4 · Note** OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.

25 **LV 5:4 · Note** OSHB note: We read punctuation in L differently from BHS.

26 **LV 5:5 · Note** Note: KJB: Eccl.5.6

27 **LV 5:6 · Note** Note: KJB: Eccl.5.7

29 **LV 5:7 · Note** Note: KJB: Eccl.5.8

30 **LV 5:7 · Note** OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.

31 **LV 5:7 · Note** OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.

32 **LV 5:7 · Note** OSHB note: We read punctuation in L differently from BHS.

33 **LV 5:8 · Note** Note: KJB: Eccl.5.9

34 **LV 5:8 · Note** OSHB variant note: אִיהּ: (x-qere) 'אֵיהּ': lemma_1931 n_1 morph_HPp3ms id_21rhu אֵיהּ

35 **LV 5:9 · Note** Note: KJB: Eccl.5.10

36 **LV 5:10 · Note** Note: KJB: Eccl.5.11

37 **LV 5:10 · Note** OSHB variant note: תִּיאֹר: (x-qere) 'תְּוֵאֹר': lemma_7207 morph_HNcfsc id_21DLP תְּוֵאֹר

38 **LV 5:11 · Note** Note: KJB: Eccl.5.12

39 **LV 5:12 · Note** Note: KJB: Eccl.5.13

Readers' Version

creases,
and what advantage does the owner get other than just feeding his eyes?
12 The labourer has a pleasant sleep, whether they've had a lot to eat or just a little,
^but the many investments of the rich person don't permit them to sleep.
13 There's a sad contradiction that I've seen in this world:
wealth hoarded up by its owner, but working to destroy him.
14 Then that wealth was lost in a failed investment
and although he had a son, he had nothing left to live on.
15 He was naked when he was born and he'll be naked when he goes again,
and despite all his hard work, he won't be able to take any money with him.[28]
16 This is also a sickening misfortune:
He will leave this world just like he entered it,
and what profit belongs to him who will work hard for the wind?
17 What's more, all his life he'll eat in darkness,
and in a lot of distress, as well as sickness and anger.
18 Listen, this is what I myself have discovered to be good:
It's good for a person to eat and drink
and to see benefit in all the hard work that they'll do in this world
during the number of the days of their life that God has given that person,
because that's their allocation in life.
19 Also, each person who's been given wealth and possessions by God and has been empowered
to eat from it
and to accept their allocation in life
and to enjoy their hard work:
that's a gift from God.
20 Those people don't retain a memory of each day that passed
because God keeps them full of internal happiness.
6:1 There's a problem in this world
and it troubles people:
2 God gives wealth and possessions and prestige to someone,
and that person has access to everything they want,
but God doesn't allow them to enjoy it—

Literal Version

_of_his. 13 [40] And_ the_wealth (the)_that _it_was_lost in_a_ _business evil and_he_fathered a_son and_there_was_not in_ _his/its_hand anything. 14 [41] Just_as he_came_out from_the_ _womb_of his/its_mother naked he_will_return to_go just_as_ _he_came and_anything not he_will_carry in_toil_of_his which_he_will_take in_his/its_hand. 15 [42] And_also this is_an_ _evil severe as_to exactly_as_of (that)_he_came so he_will_go and_what advantage to_him/it who_will_toil for_wind. 16 [43] Also all_of his/its_days in_darkness he_eats and_he_is_vexed greatly and_sickness_of_his and_anger. 17 [44] HERE that_which I I_have_seen to_be_good that_which is_beautiful is_to_eat and_to_drink and_to_see good in_all toil_of_his which_ _someone_will_toil under the_sun the_number_of the_days_ _of his[454647] which he_has_given to_him/it the_'Elohīm if/because it portion_of_is_his. 18 [48] Also every_of the_ _humankind whom he_has_given to_him/it the_'Elohīm wealth and_riches and_he_has_given_him_power to_eat from_him/it and_to_receive ~~DOM~~ portion_of_his and_to_take_ _pleasure in_toil_of_his this is_a_gift_of god it. 19 [49] If/because not much he_will_remember ~~DOM~~ the_days_of his/its_life if/because the_'Elohīm is_keeping_him_busy with_the_joy_of his/its_heart.
6:1 There_is an_evil which I_have_seen under the_sun and_is_ _great it on the_humankind. 2 Anyone whom he_gives to_ _him/it the_'Elohīm wealth and_riches and_honour and_not_ _existing_he is_lacking to_appetite_of_his from_all that he_ _desires and_not he_gives_him_power the_'Elohīm to_eat from_him/it if/because a_man foreign he_eats_it this is_ _futility and_is_an_affliction an_evil it. 3 If anyone he_will_ _father one_hundred_children and_years many he_will_live and_will_be_many that_which_ the_days_of his_years_of_his _ _they_will_be and_self_of_his not it_will_be_satisfied from the_good and_also burial not it_belonged for_him/it I_say is_ _good from_him/it the_miscarriage. 4 If/because in_futility it_came and_in_darkness it_will_go and_in_darkness his/its_ _name it_is_covered. 5 Also the_sun not it_saw and_not it_ _knew_it quietness belongs_to_this_one more_than_this_one. 6 And_if he_lived a_thousand years two_times and_good not he_saw not to a_place one are_(the)_all going. 7 All_of the_ _toil_of the_humankind is_for_mouth_of_his and_also the_ _living_creatures not it_will_be_filled. 8 If/because what advantage belongs_to_person more_than the_fool what belongs_to_person who_knows to_walk before the_living. 9 Is_good the_sight_of eyes more_ desire _than_going also this is_futility and_striving_of wind. 10 Whatever (that)_it_ _has_been already his/its_name it_has_been_named and_ which/who he is_human _it_is_known and_not he_is_able to_ _contend with mmm[50] more_than_him. 11 If/because there_

28 **RV 5:15 · Cross-ref.** Yob 1:21; Psa 49:17; 1Tim 6:7.
40 **LV 5:13 · Note** Note: KJB: Eccl.5.14
41 **LV 5:14 · Note** Note: KJB: Eccl.5.15
42 **LV 5:15 · Note** Note: KJB: Eccl.5.16
43 **LV 5:16 · Note** Note: KJB: Eccl.5.17
44 **LV 5:17 · Note** Note: KJB: Eccl.5.18
45 **LV 5:17 · Note** OSHB variant note: יח/ו: (x-qere) יָיִח/ו: lemma_2416 e n_0.0.0 morph_HNcmpc/Sp3ms id_21yrH יָיִח/ו
46 **LV 5:17 · Note** OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.
47 **LV 5:17 · Note** OSHB note: We have abandoned or added a ketib/qere relative to BHS. In doing this we agree with L against BHS.
48 **LV 5:18 · Note** Note: KJB: Eccl.5.19
49 **LV 5:19 · Note** Note: KJB: Eccl.5.20
50 **LV 6:10 · Note** OSHB variant note: ש/היקתה: (x-qere) שׂ/תֵיקַת: lemma_s/8623 n_0.0 morph_HTd/Aamsa id_21fTQ שׂ/תֵיקַת

Literal Version

_are words/messages many which_increase futility what advantage belongs_to_person. **12** If/because who is_knowing what is_good for_person in_life the_number_of the_days_of the_life_of his_futility_of_his and_he_spends_them like_ _shadow that who will_he_tell to_person what will_it_be after_him under the_sun.

7:1 Is_good a_name more_than_ointment good and_the_day_ _of (the)_death more_than_the_day_of his_being_born. **2** Is_ _good to_go to a_house_of mourning more_than_to_go to a_ _house_of a_feast because_what it is_the_end_of every_of the_humankind and_the_living_person he_will_give to his/its_heart. **3** Is_good vexation more_than_laughter if/because by_sadness_of face a_heart it_will_be_good. **4** The_ _heart_of wise_people in_house_of mourning and_the_heart_ _of fools in_house_of rejoicing. **5** Is_good to_listen_to the_ _rebuke_of a_wise_person from_man who_listens_to the_ _song_of fools. **6** If/because like_the_sound_of (the)_thorns under the_pot so the_laughter_of the_fool and_also this is_ _futility. **7** If/because (the)_oppression it_will_make_look_ _foolish a_wise_person and_ a_bribe _it_will_destroy ~~DOM~~ a_ _heart. **8** Is_good the_end_of a_matter more_than_of_its_ _beginning is_good a_person_long_of spirit more_than_a_ _person_haughty_of spirit. **9** Do_not be_hasty in_spirit_of_ _your to_become_angry if/because anger in_the_bosom_of fools it_settles. **10** Do_not say why that_the_days (the)_ _former they_were good from_these was_it if/because not from_wisdom you_have_asked on this. **11** Is_good wisdom with an_inheritance and_is_an_advantage to_those_who_see_

Readers' Version

instead a foreigner will get to enjoy it.
That's totally pointless, and it's senseless and unfair.
3 If a man should father a hundred children
and live many years however long his life might be,
but he's not satisfied in himself by his prosperity
and he doesn't have anywhere to be buried,
then I'd say that a stillborn child would have been better off than him,
4 because that child came for no reason
and it went in darkness, and its name will be covered in darkness.
5 It didn't even see the sun or know about it.
It'll rest easier than that man will.
6 Even if that man lived a thousand years twice over,
but never saw good in anything,
aren't they both going to the same place?
7 All of humanity's work is for their mouth,
but the inner cravings are never fulfilled.
8 So what advantage does a wise person have over a fool?
What advantage does a poor person's knowledge give them over others?
9 It's better to enjoy what's right there than to feed the imagination.
That's also pointless and chasing after the wind.
10 Everything that existed has already been named.
It's known what humankind is
and that humans can't dispute with the one who's stronger than them.
11 Yes, many words just become more pointless.
What advantage is that to anyone?
12 Who knows what's good for a person
for those pointless days that he/she lives?
The days pass by like a shadow
but who can tell anyone what will happen to them next in this world?
7:1 A good reputation is better than expensive perfume,[51] **The life**
and the day you die is more important than the day of your birth.
2 It's better to go to a house where there's mourning than to a house where there's a party,
because death is the end of each person,
and those still alive should consider this in their hearts.
3 Laughter is better than grief
because a serious face means that the mind is working.
4 Wise people do their thinking at a funeral,
whereas foolish people prefer to spend time at a party.
5 It's better to accept a rebuke from a wise person
than to listen to the songs from foolish people,
6 because the laughter of a fool
is like the crackling of burning thorn twigs under a cooking pot—
that's also pointless.
7 Oppression drives a wise person insane,

51 RV 7:1 · Cross-ref. Prv 22:1.

Readers' Version

and a bribe destroys a person's morals.
8 Finishing something is better than starting it,
and being patient is better than being proud.
9 Don't be quick to get angry,[52]
because anger belongs in a fool's toolbox.
10 Don't ask, "What was it about the old days that were better than these?"
because that question doesn't display wisdom.
11 Wisdom is good when you get an inheritance,
and it's an advantage to those doing well.
12 Wisdom can protect us just like money can,
but the advantage of knowledge is that wisdom preserves the life of its owner.
13 Look at God's work:
who can straighten what he's made crooked?
14 Be happy on a good day,
but on a day of problems, consider this:
God caused one, as well as the other—
humanity can't discover what's going to come next.
15 I've seen everything in my days of pointlessness:
There's godly people dying despite doing everything right,
and there are wicked people living long lives doing evil.
16 Don't be highly righteous or overly wise—
Why go to the trouble of destroying yourself?
17 Don't be very wicked and don't be a fool—
why should you die when it's not your time?
18 It's good to take hold of wisdom and don't rest from doing what is right,
because the godly person should continue with both of them.
19 Wisdom gives strength to the wise—
more than the ten most powerful men in the city.
20 But yes, there's no person on the earth who's truly good,
only doing what is right and never disobeying.
21 Don't give your attention to everything that people say,
otherwise you might hear your servant speaking against you,
22 because you know how often you've belittled others yourself.
23 I tested all of that with wisdom.
I said, "Let me be wise," but it eluded me.
24 It seemed far away
and deeper down than anyone can find.
25 I changed my mind's direction to try to learn and explore—
to search for wisdom and to understand how things work,
and to understand the foolishness of wickedness and how that leads to madness.
26 I learnt that a woman who takes advantage of you leads to more bitterness than death would be—
her heart is like a net and her hands become chains.
Any person that's good in God's eyes would escape from her,
but an ungodly person would end up captured by her.

Literal Version

_of (of)_the_sun. **12** If/because (in)_the_shade of_(the)_
_wisdom (in)_the_shade of_(the)_money and_the_advantage_
_of knowledge (the)_wisdom it_preserves_alive owners_of_
_its. **13** Consider ~~DOM~~ the_work_of the_'Elohīm if/because
who is_he_able to_make_straight ~~DOM~~ that_which he_has_
_bent_it. **14** In/on_day good be in_good and_on_a_day_of
adversity consider also ~~DOM~~ this exactly_as_of this the_
_'Elohīm he_has_made on cause_of that_not the_humankind
he_will_find_out after_him anything. **15** ~~DOM~~ (the)_everything
I_have_seen in_the_days_of my_futility_of_my there_is a_
_righteous_person who_perishes in_righteousness_of_his
and_there_is a_wicked_person who_prolongs in_evil_of_his.
16 Do_not be righteous greatly and_do_not make_yourself_
_wise excessively to/for_what will_you_destroy_yourself.
17 Do_not be_wicked greatly and_do_not be a_fool to/for_
_what will_you_die at_not time_of_your. **18** Is_good
which/who you_will_take_hold on_this and_also from_this
do_not give_rest_to ~~DOM~~ hand_of_your if/because one_
_fearing_of (of)_god he_will_go_out ~~DOM~~ of_them_of_all.
19 (The)_wisdom it_gives_strength to_person from_ten rulers
who they_are in_city. **20** If/because anyone there_is_not
righteous on_the_earth who he_does good and_not he_sins.
21 Also to/from_all/each/any/every the_words/messages
which people_speak do_not give heart_of_your that not you_
_will_hear ~~DOM~~ servant_of_your cursing_of_you. **22** If/because
also times many heart_of_your it_knows which/who also
you[53] you_have_cursed others. **23** All_of this I_have_put_to_
_the_test by_wisdom I_said let_me_be_wise and_she was_far
from_me. **24** Is_far_away whatever (that)_it_has_been and_
_deep deep who will_he_find_it_out. **25** I (and)_heart_of_my I_
_turned to_know and_to_examine and_to_seek wisdom and_
_the_scheme_of_things and_to_know wickedness stupidity
and_the_folly madness(es). **26** And_was_ I _finding bitter
more_than_death ~~DOM~~ the_woman who she is_snares and_is_
_nets her/its_heart are_fetters hands_of_her a_person_good
to_(the)_face_of/in_front_of/before the_'Elohīm he_escapes
from_her/it and_a_sinner he_is_captured by_her. **27** Consider
this I_have_found Teacher she_said one to_one to_find the_
_scheme_of_things. **28** Which again self_of_my it_has_sought
and_not I_have_found a_man one of_a_thousand I_have_
_found and_a_woman among_all_of these not I_have_found.
29 Only_only consider this I_have_found which/who the_
_'Elohīm he_made ~~DOM~~ the_humankind upright and_they
they_have_sought schemes many.
8:1 Who is_like_the_wise_person and_who is_knowing the_
_interpretation_of a_matter the_wisdom_of anyone it_makes_
_shine his/its_faces/face and_the_strength_of his/its_
_faces/face it_is_changed. **2** I the_mouth_of a_king keep and_
_on the_cause_of the_oath_of god. **3** Do_not be_hasty from_
_before_of_him you_will_go do_not stand in_a_matter evil
if/because all that he_will_desire he_will_do. **4** Because_that
a_message_of a_king is_mastery and_who will_he_say to_
_him/it what are_you_doing. **5** one_who_keeps_of (of)_a_
_command not he_will_know a_thing evil and_an_
_appropriate_time and_custom the_heart a_wise_person it_
_will_know. **6** If/because to/from_all/each/any/every matter
there_is an_appropriate_time and_a_custom if/because the_
_trouble_of the_humankind is_great on/upon/above_him/it.

52 RV 7:9 · Cross-ref. Jam 1:19.

53 LV 7:22 · Note OSHB variant note: תא: (x-qere) 'הָתָּא': lemma_859 c n_0.0 morph_HPp2ms id_21fA1 הָתָּא

Literal Version

7 If/because not_he is_knowing what (that)_will_it_be if/because just_as it_will_be who will_he_tell to_him/it. **8** There_is_not anyone having_mastery over_wind to_restrain ÐOM the_wind and_there_is_not mastery in/on_day of_(the)_ _death and_there_is_not discharge in_battle and_not wickedness it_will_rescue ÐOM owners_of_its. **9** ÐOM all_of this I_have_seen and_I_have_given ÐOM heart_of_my to/from_ _all/each/any/every deed which it_is_done under the_sun a_ _time when the_humankind he_has_power over_a_person for_harm to_him/it. **10** And_in_such I_have_seen wicked_ _people being_buried and_they_came and_from_a_place_of holy they_went and_they_will_be_forgotten in_city where right they_had_done also this is_futility. **11** That not the_ _sentence_of the_deed_of the_evil it_is_done quickly therefore yes/correct/thus/so the_heart_of the_children_of the_humankind it_is_full (is)_in_them for_doing evil. **12** That a_sinner is_doing evil a_hundred_times_of and_he_is_ _prolonging to_him/it if/because also I am_knowing which/who it_will_belong good to_those_fearing_of the_ _'Elohīm that they_fear from_before_face_of_him. **13** And_ _good not it_will_belong to_wicked and_not he_will_prolong days like_shadow that not_he he_has_feared from_to/for_ _face/front/presence god. **14** There_is futility which it_is_ _done on the_earth/land which/who there_are righteous_ _people whom it_is_happening to_them according_to_the_ _deed[s]_of (the)_wicked_people and_there_are wicked_ _people whom_it_is_happening to_them according_to_the_ _deed[s]_of (the)_righteous_people I_said that_also this is_ _futility. **15** And_ I _I_commend ÐOM (the)_pleasure that there_is_not good for_humankind under the_sun if/because (if) to_eat and_to_drink and_to_rejoice and_he it_will_join_ _him in_toil_of_his the_days_of his/its_life which he_has_ _given to_him/it the_'Elohīm under the_sun. **16** Just_as I_gave ÐOM heart_of_my to_know wisdom and_to_see ÐOM the_ _business which it_is_done on the_earth/land if/because also in_the_day and_in_the_night sleep with_eyes_of_his not_he is_seeing. **17** And_I_saw ÐOM all_of the_work_of the_'Elohīm if/because not the_humankind he_is_able to_find_out ÐOM the_work which it_is_done under the_sun in_that_(to) that the_humankind he_toils to_seek and_not he_will_find_out and_also if the_wise_person he_will_say to_know not he_will_ _be_able to_find_out.

9:1 If/because ÐOM all_of this I_have_given to heart_of_my and_to_make_clear ÐOM all_of this which/who the_righteous and_the_wise and_deeds_of_their are_in_the_hand_of the_ _'Elohīm both love as_well_as hatred not the_humankind is_ _knowing (the)_everything is_before_of_them. **2** (The)_all just_as for_all fate one belongs_to_righteous and_to_wicked to_good and_to_clean and_to_unclean and_to_who_sacrifices and_to_one_who not_he is_sacrificing as_person as_sinner the_one_who_swears_an_oath just_as an_oath one_fearing. **3** This is_an_evil in_all that it_is_done under the_sun if/because fate one belongs_to_everyone and_also the_heart_ _of the_children_of the_humankind is_full evil and_ _madness(es) is_in_heart_of_their in_lives_of_their and_ _after_it to the_dead_people. **4** If/because who is_the_one_ _who he_is_united[54] to all_of the_living there_is hope if/because to_a_dog living it is_good more_than the_lion (the)_dead. **5** If/because the_life are_knowing that_will_die and_the_dead_people not_they are_knowing anything and_

Readers' Version

27 The leader has discovered that—
adding one thing to another to try to find an explanation for everything.
28 I continually tried to learn more, but I didn't find it.
I found one special man out of a thousand
but I couldn't find one such woman out of all of them.
29 This is the only conclusion I came to:
God made humankind to do good, but instead they've come up with many other kinds of schemes.
8:1 Who's like the wise person and understands what's going on?
A person's wisdom makes their face lighten up
and gives their face a certain firmness.
2 Follow the king's orders
because of your promise to God.
3 Don't rush away from the king's presence
or take a stand on an evil matter
because whatever he wants to do, he'll do.
4 A king's word is authoritative—
who'll ask him what he thinks he's doing?
5 Those who follow commands will stay out of trouble,
and a wise person will know the right time and place for something
6 because there's a time and a right way to do everything,
otherwise humanity's misery will be severe.
7 No one knows what the future will bring
so no one can tell you what will happen next.
8 Just as no person has control over the wind to be able to restrain it,
nor does anyone have authority over the day of their death.
Just as no one can be discharged in the middle of a war,
nor can being wicked rescue you from your situation.
9 I saw all that and applied my mind to everything that happens in this world.
I saw that sometimes a person can dominate someone else to that person's detriment.
10 I've seen wicked people being buried—
being carried out from a sacred place,
and what they'd done there in the city was just forgotten.
That's also pointless.
11 When an evil activity isn't quickly condemned,
then humanity will become totally determined to do evil.
12 Even if an ungodly person does some evil thing a hundred times over and goes on to live a long time,
I know that things will go better for those who respect and obey God.
13 It won't go well for the wicked and what they do won't help them live longer
because they've shown no respect for God's presence.
14 There's something else strange that happens in this world:
when bad things happen to godly people
and when good things happen to evil people.
That's also hard to understand.
15 Then I recommended enjoyment

54 LV 9:4 · Note OSHB variant note: רחבי: (x-qere) 'לַבֶּחִי': lemma_2266 n_1.1 morph_HVPi3ms id_21t8g לַבֶּחִי

Readers' Version

because there's nothing better for a person in this world
than to eat and drink and be cheery,
then that attitude will be with them as they work
during the days of their life that God gives them in this
world.
16 So when I set my mind on gaining wisdom
and observing all the business done on this earth,
because day and night there's someone not sleeping,
17 and I saw everything that God does—
realising that humanity can't discover everything that's
done in this world—
they'll try to discover it but fail.
Even if a wise person claimed to know,
they wouldn't be able to discover it.
9:1 Indeed I set my mind to examine all this
and concluded that godly and wise people and their work is
in God's hands.
Being loved or being hated, humankind doesn't know what's
ahead of them.
2 We all have the same fate whether godly or wicked,
or good or pure or impure,
whether you sacrifice or not,
or you're good or disobedient,
or you make a promise or you're the subject of a promise.
3 There's evil in everything that's done in this world:
that same final event for everyone.
Yes, humankind's minds are full of evil and madness during
their lifetimes,
and after that they join the dead.
4 Anyone who's joined to the living has hope,
because a dog that's alive is better than a lion that's dead,
5 because the living know that we'll die
but the dead don't know anything
and have no further reward because their memory is forgot-
ten.
6 Their love and hatred and their envy will have already per-
ished,
and they no longer have a part in everything that's done in
this world.
7 So go and enjoy eating your food and drinking your wine
because God has already approved what you've been doing.
8 Always let your clothes be clean and white,
and don't spare the use of lotion on your head.
9 Live together with the wife that you love
for all the length of your pointless life that you're given in
this world,
because that's your allocation in your life
and in the work that you're doing in this world.
10 Everything that you find to do, do it well,
because in the grave where you'll be going,
there's no work or planning or knowledge or wisdom.
11 I again saw in this world
that the fastest ones don't always win the race,
the most powerful side doesn't always win the war,
wise people don't always have enough to eat,
intelligent people don't always get wealthy,
and people with understanding don't always win favour,

Literal Version

_there_is_not still to/for_them a_reward if/because
memorial_of_their it_is_forgotten. **6** Both love_of_their as_
_well_as hatred_of_their as_well_as envy_of_their already it_
_has_perished and_a_portion there_is_not to/for_them again
forever_perpetuity in_all that it_is_done under the_sun. **7** Go
eat with_joy food_of_your and_drink with_a_heart_of good
wine_of_your if/because already the_'Elohīm he_has_taken_
_pleasure_in ~~DOM~~ deeds_of_your. **8** In_all time let_them_be
clothes_of_your white and_oil on head_of_your not let_it_be_
_lacking. **9** See life with a_wife whom you_love all_of the_
_days_of the_life_of your_futility_of_your which he_has_
_given to/for_yourself(m) under the_sun all_of the_days_of
your_futility_of_your if/because it portion_of_is_your in_life
and_in_toil_of_your which you are_toiling under the_sun.
10 All that hand_of_your it_finds for_doing with_strength_of_
_your do if/because there_is_not work and_the_scheme_of_
_things and_knowledge and_wisdom in_Shə'ōl where you
are_going to_(to). **11** I_returned and_I_saw under the_sun
if/because_that not belongs_to_ones the_race and_not
belongs_to_men the_battle and_also not belongs_to_people
food and_also not belongs_to_who_has_understanding
wealth and_also not belongs_to_who_has_knowledge favour
if/because time and_chance it_happens_to ~~DOM~~ of_them_of_
_all. **12** If/because also not the_humankind he_knows ~~DOM~~
time_of_his like_fish(es) which_are_caught in_a_net evil and_
_like_birds which_are_caught in_snare like_them the_
_children_of the_humankind are_ensnared to_a_time_of evil
when_it_falls on_them suddenly.

Literal Version

13 Also this I_have_seen wisdom under the_sun and_was_
_great it to_me. 14 A_city small and_men in_it were_few and_
_he_came to_her/it a_king great and_he_surrounded ~~ᵭᵒᵐ~~_
_her/it and_he_built on/upon_it(f) siege_works great.
15 And_someone_found in_it a_man poor wise and_ he _he_
_delivered ~~ᵭᵒᵐ~~ the_city by_wisdom_of_his and_
_human/'Ādām not he_remembered ~~ᵭᵒᵐ~~ the_man (the)_poor
(the)_that.[565758] 16 And_ I _I_said is_good wisdom more_than_
_strength and_the_wisdom_of the_poor_person is_despised
and_words/messages_of_his not_they are_heard. 17 The_
_words/messages_of wise_people in_quietness heard are_
_more_than_the_cry_of a_ruler among_fools. 18 Is_good
wisdom more_than_weapons_of war and_a_sinner one he_
_will_destroy good much.
10:1 Flies_of death it_causes_to_stink it_ferments the_oil_of a_
_perfumer is_weighty more_than_wisdom more_than_
_honour folly_of a_little. 2 The_heart a_wise_person is_to_
_his_right_of_hand and_the_heart a_fool is_to_his_left_of_
_hand. 3 And_also on_way the[5960] is_walking his/its_heart
he_lacks and_saying(ms) to_everyone is_a_fool he. 4 If the_
_spirit_of the_ruler it_will_go_up towards_you place_of_your
do_not leave if/because health it_will_cause_to_rest sins
great. 5 There_is an_evil which_I_have_seen under the_sun
like_an_inadvertence which_is_going_forth from_to/for_
_face/front/presence the_ruler. 6 (The)_folly it_is_put in_
_(the)_places many and_rich_people in_place they_sit. 7 I_
_have_seen slaves on horses and_princes who_walk like_
_slaves on the_earth/land. 8 one_who_digs a_pit in/on/over_
_him/it he_will_fall and_one_who_breaks_through a_wall it_
_will_bite_him a_snake. 9 one_who_quarries stones he_will_
_be_hurt (is)_in_them one_who_cleaves wood(s) he_will_be_
_endangered by_them. 10 If the_iron_axe it_is_blunt and_he
not faces he_has_sharpened and_strength(s) he_will_make_
_strong and_is_an_advantage_of to_give_success[6162] wisdom.
11 If the_snake it_will_bite with_not charming and_there_is_
_not advantage for_the_master_of the_tongue. 12 The_
_words/messages_of the_mouth_of a_wise_person are_favour
and_the_lips_of a_fool it_swallows_him. 13 The_beginning_of
the_words/messages_of his_mouth_of_his is_folly and_the_
_end_of his_mouth_of_his is_madness evil. 14 And_the_fool
he_multiplies words/messages not the_humankind he_knows
what (that)_will_it_be and_which it_will_be from_after_him
who will_he_tell to_him/it. 15 The_toil_of (the)_fools it_
_wearies_him that not he_knows to_go to a_city. 16 Woe
to/for_you(fs) Oh_land which_king_of_your is_a_youth and_

Readers' Version

because chance and timing affects them all.
12 You see, humanity doesn't know when their time is about to be up:
just like a fish getting caught in a deadly net,
or birds that get caught in a trap,
so too people can get caught out when trouble suddenly hits them.

Wisdom is better than stupidity

13 I also saw this about wisdom in this world
and found it powerful: 14 There was a small walled city with not so many inhabitants and a powerful king decided to attack it so he surrounded it and built large siege ramps against the walls. 15 There was a poor man in the city who was wise and used his wisdom to save it from that king, but the people soon forgot about that poor man. 16 So I concluded that wisdom is better than strength and yet the poor person's wisdom wasn't appreciated and his words were soon forgotten.
17 The words of wise people are quietly heeded—
more than those of a ruler shouting at a bunch of fools.
18 It's better to be wise than to have many weapons,
but one disobedient person will destroy a lot of good.
10:1 Dead flies make a perfumer's product stink.
Similarly, a little foolishness can ruin all your wisdom or honour.
2 A wise person's thoughts lead to protection,
^but a fool's thoughts lead to vulnerability
3 and while they're walking along the road,
the fool lacks common sense
and everyone is aware of what a fool they are.
4 If a ruler gets upset with you, don't quit your position,
because calmness will smooth over large offenses.
5 I saw another misfortune in this world:
where an error happened in front of a ruler.
6 Foolishness can happen even in high positions,
^and wealthy people can be in low positions.
7 I've seen slaves riding horses
^and princes walking on the ground like slaves.
8 A person who digs a pit can fall into it,[55]
and an attacker who breaks through a wall gets bitten by a snake.
9 A person who pulls out rocks might be hurt by them.
Someone who splits wood might get injured by it.
10 If your iron axe head gets blunt and the owner doesn't sharpen it,
then he has to use lots of strength,
so use wisdom if you want to succeed.
11 If a snake bites before it's charmed,

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55 **RV 10:8 · Cross-ref.** Psa 7:15; Prv 26:27.

56 **LV 9:15 · Note** OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.

57 **LV 9:15 · Note** OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.

58 **LV 9:15 · Note** OSHB note: We read punctuation in L differently from BHS.

59 **LV 10:3 · Note** OSHB variant note: לכס/ה/ש/כ: (x-qere) 'לָכָסֶ֫שְׁכִ': lemma_k/s/5530 morph_HR/Tr/Ncmsa id_21kMd לָכָסֶ֫שְׁכִ

60 **LV 10:3 · Note** OSHB note: Yathir readings in L which we have designated as Qeres when both Dothan and BHS list a Qere.

61 **LV 10:10 · Note** OSHB variant note: רישכה: (x-qere) 'רֶשְׁכָּה': lemma_3787 n_0.0 morph_HVhc id_212fr רֶשְׁכָּה

62 **LV 10:10 · Note** OSHB note: Yathir readings in L which we have designated as Qeres when both Dothan and BHS list a Qere.

Readers' Version

the snake charmer won't be able to charge for the show.
12 A wise person's words earn them favour,
but a fool's lips destroy him—
13 as soon as he opens his mouth, foolishness comes out,
and the end of his chatter is wicked madness.
14 Then the fool continues again with more nonsense.
No one knows what will happen next.
Who can tell you what will happen in the future?
15 A foolish person's work wears him out,
because he doesn't know how to get to a city.
16 A country won't end well
if its king is young and its princes feast in the morning.
17 A country is blessed if its king comes from a noble family
and its princes eat and drink for strength and not for drunkenness.
18 With a lazy owner, the roof beams will sag.
Idle hands will result in a leaky house.
19 There's laughter around the meal table,
wine makes people glad,
and money is the answer to everything.
20 Don't curse the king even in your mind,
and don't curse the rich even in your bedroom,
because a little birdie will carry your words
and some feathered critter will pass on what you said.

The to do of wise

11:1 Throw your bread out onto the waters
because you'll find it again in several days.
2 Share it around seven or eight others
because you don't know when a calamity will hit your area.
3 If the clouds are filled with rain, they'll pour it out,
and if a tree falls to the north or the south,
wherever it falls, that's where it'll be.
4 A person who worries about the wind,
won't sow any seed,
and someone who keeps looking at the clouds,
will never harvest their crop.
5 Just as you don't know how the winds work,
or how the bones get into a pregnant woman's womb,
nor do you know how God does everything that he does.
6 Sow your seed in the morning
and don't stop planting until the evening,
because you don't know which areas will grow well,
or whether it will all succeed equally.
7 Light is sweet
and it's good for your eyes to see the sun.
8 Even if a person lives for many years,
they should take pleasure in all of them,
but remember the dark days
because everything that happens is pointless.

Advice to young people

9 Young people, enjoy being young and strong
and stay cheerful during that youthful stage.
Follow your ambitions and your desires

Literal Version

_princes_of_your in_morning they_eat. **17** How_of_blessed_
_are_you Oh_land which_king_of_your is_a_son_of nobles
and_princes_of_your at_time they_eat for_strength and_not
for_drinking. **18** In_laziness(es) the_rafter[s] it_comes_low
and_in_lowering_of hands the_house it_leaks. **19** For_laughter
people_are_making food and_wine it_makes_glad life and_
_(the)_money it_answers ~~ÐOM~~ (the)_everything. **20** Also in_
_mind_of_your a_king do_not curse and_in_the_chambers_of
your_lying_down_of_your do_not curse a_rich_person
if/because (the)_bird_of the_heavens it_will_carry ~~ÐOM~~ the_
_sound and_an_owner_of the[63] it_will_tell the_matter.

11:1 Send bread_of_your on the_surface_of the_waters
if/because in_(the)_abundance_of the_days you_will_find_it.
2 Give a_portion to_seven and_also to_eight if/because not
you_know what calamity will_it_be on the_earth/land. **3** If
the_clouds they_will_be_filled rain on the_earth/land they_
_will_pour_it_out and_if a_tree it_falls at_south and_if at_
_north the_place_of (of)_where_ the_tree _it_falls there it_
_will_become. **4** one_who_watches_of a_wind not he_will_sow
and_one_who_looks on_clouds not he_will_reap. **5** Just_as
not_you are_knowing what is_the_way_of the_wind like_
_bones in_the_womb_of the_full_woman thus not you_know
~~ÐOM~~ the_work_of the_'Elohīm who he_makes ~~ÐOM~~ (the)_
_everything. **6** In_morning sow ~~ÐOM~~ seed_of_your and_to_
_evening do_not give_rest_to hand_of_your if/because not_
_you are_knowing[64] where this will_it_succeed this or this
and_if both_of_them as_one be_good. **7** And_is_sweet the_
_light and_good for_eyes to_see ~~ÐOM~~ the_sun. **8** If/because if
years many the_humankind he_will_live in_all_of_them
let_him_take_pleasure and_let_him_remember ~~ÐOM~~ the_days_
_of the_darkness if/because many they_will_be all that_it_
_has_come is_futility.

9 Take_pleasure Oh_young_man in_youth(s)_of_your and_let_
_it_make_you_good heart_of_your in_the_days_of your_
_youth(s)_of_your and_walk in_the_ways_of your_heart_of_
_your and_in_the_sight_of your_two's_eyes_of_your and_
_know if/because_that on_all_of these_things he_will_bring_

63 LV 10:20 · Note OSHB variant note: מיפנכ/ה: (x-qere) 'סַיְפֶנְּךָ': lemma_3671 n_0.0 morph_HNcfda id_21ckn סַיְפֶנְּךָ
64 LV 11:6 · Note OSHB note: We agree with both BHS 1997 and BHQ on an unexpected reading.

Literal Version

you the'Elohīm in_judgement. **10** And_remove vexation from_heart_of_your and_put_away evil from_flesh_of_your if/because (the)_youth and_the_black_hair are_futility.
12:1 And_remember ~~ḎǾM~~ your(pl)_of_creator(s) in_the_days_ _of your_youth(s)_of_your until that not the_days_of (the)_ _evil they_will_come and_ years which you_will_say there_is_ _not to_me in/among_them pleasure _they_will_arrive.
2 Until that not the_sun and_the_light and_the_moon and_ _the_stars it_will_become_dark and_ the_clouds _they_will_ _return after the_rain. **3** In_the_day when_ those_who_keep_ _of (of)_the_house _they_will_tremble and_ the_people_of (the)_strength _they_will_bend_themselves and_ the_female_ _grinders _they_will_cease if/because they_have_become_ _few and_ the_women_who_look in_windows _they_will_ _grow_dim. **4** And_ the_doors _they_will_be_shut_up on_ _street when_ the_sound_of the_grinding_mill _becomes_low and_someone_will_arise to_sound/voice of_(the)_bird and_ all_of the_daughters_of (the)_song _they_will_be_reduced.
5 Also from_a_high_place people_will_be_afraid and_terrors are_in_way and_ the_almond_tree _it_will_bloom and_ the_ _grasshopper _it_will_drag_itself_along and_ the_caper-berry _it_will_fail if/because the_humankind is_going to the_ _house_of its_perpetuity_of_his and_they_will_go_about in_ _street[666768] the_mourners. **6** Until that not it_will_be_ _snapped[69] the_cord_of (the)_silver and_ the_bowl_of the_ _gold _it_will_be_crushed and_ the_jar _it_will_be_broken at the_water_spring and_ the_water_wheel _it_will_be_crushed to the_well. **7** And_ the_dust _it_will_return to the_earth/land just_as_it_was and_the_spirit it_will_return to the_'Elohīm who he_gave_it. **8** Futility_of futilities the_Teacher he_said (the)_everything is_futility.

9 And_excess that_ Teacher _he_was wise again he_taught knowledge ~~ḎǾM~~ the_people and_he_weighed and_he_ _searched_out he_arranged_in_order proverbs many.
10 Teacher he_sought to_find words/messages_of delight and_that_which_was_written uprightness was_ _words/messages_of truth. **11** The_words/messages_of wise_ _people are_like_goads and_are_like_nails firmly_fixed masters_of collections they_are_given from_a_shepherd one.
12 And_excess more_than_them my_child_of_my be_warned to_make books many there_is_not an_end and_study much is_weariness_of flesh. **13** The_end_of the_matter (the)_ _everything it_has_been_heard ~~ḎǾM~~ the_'Elohīm fear and_ _~~ḎǾM~~ commands_of_his keep if/because this is_all_of the_

Readers' Version

but be aware that God will judge you concerning all those things.
10 Don't allow yourself to be controlled by anger
and keep your body away from evil,
because youth and good looks are a vapour that passes.
12:1 Think about your creator while you're still young,
before troubling times come
and the years arrive when you'll say that you no longer find pleasure in them.
2 Yes, before the sun and the light, and the moon and the stars seem darker,
and the clouds return after the rain.
3 That day when the guards of the house will get the trembles
and the strong men will be bent over,
and the women grinding grain will stop because there's only a few of them left,
and the women looking out the windows will no longer see clearly.[65]
4 Then the doors in the street will be shut
so that the grinding that gets louder with the first birdsong will be barely heard
and all the girls singing will be quietened.
5 The people will also become afraid of heights
and the road will have its terrors.
The almond trees will blossom
and the locusts will drag themselves along.
Normal desires will be lost
because you'll be heading for your eternal home
and the mourners will be in the streets.
6 Think about God before the silver cord gets broken
and the golden bowl breaks,
the pitcher shatters at the well
and the wheel is crushed at the cistern,
7 the dust returns to the earth as it was
and the spirit returns to God who gave it.
8 "Nothing but a puff of air," says the leader. "Everything is pointless."

Conclusion

9 Besides the fact that the leader was wise, he still taught the people knowledge, and he searched and evaluated. He arranged and edited many proverbs. **10** The leader searched for pleasing words, and wrote down many truthful words that would lead to godliness.
11 The words of wise people can prod others along,
and they're like nails holding things firm.
They're all given by one shepherd.
12 My son, be careful of anything in addition to these,
because there's no end to producing books
and too much study wears you out.

65 RV 12:3 · Note This may also be referring to the failing body, e.g., the guards being the arms, the stooping being the legs, the grinders being few would refer to the teeth, and the windows might refer to the eyes.

66 LV 12:5 · Note OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.

67 LV 12:5 · Note OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.

68 LV 12:5 · Note OSHB note: We read one or more vowels in L differently from BHS.

69 LV 12:6 · Note OSHB variant note: קחרי: (x-qere) קֻתָּרֵי: lemma_7576 n_1.1.0 morph_HVNi3ms id_21cWZ קֻתָּרֵי

Readers' Version

13 So after listening to everything, here's the final conclusion:
Respect God and strive to follow him and obey his commands,
because that's humanity's whole duty.
14 Yes, God will judge everything we do
including everything that's been hidden
whether good or bad.

ECC · OET-RV v0.2.0

Literal Version

_humankind. **14** If/because ~~DOM~~ every_of deed the_'Elohīm he_will_bring in_judgement with every_of hidden_thing whether good and_if evil.

ECC · OET-LV v0.2.0 (OT set)

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