

Beit HaMiqra

קהלת Ecclesiastes

-Hebrew • English Parallel Bible with Notes-

Edited by

Ezra Kim, Ph.D.

Beit HaMiqra Mission

Book of Ecclesiastes

Hebrew – English Parallel Bible with Notes

Arranged by Ezra K. Kim, Ph.D.

1:1 דְּבַרֵי קהלת בן־דָּוִד מֶלֶךְ בִּירוּשָׁלַיִם

The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

קהלת collector (of sentences), preacher, public speaker, speaker in an assembly (7 times only in this Book. 1:1,2,12; 7:27; 12:8,9,10).

1:2 הֵבֵל הַבָּלִים אָמַר קהלת הֵבֵל הַבָּלִים הַכֹּל הֵבֵל

Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

הֵבֵל (or הַבָּל) (noun) vapour, breath; vanity (fig.); (adv.) vainly (38 times in this Book: 1:2<5x>,14; 2:1,11,15,17,19,21,23,26; 3:19; 4:4,7,8,16; 5:7[6],10[9]; 6:2,4,9,11,12; 7:6,15; 8:10,14<2x>; 9:9<2x>; 11:8,10; 12:8<3x>); cf. Gen 4:2.

1:3 מִה־יִתְרוֹן לָאָדָם בְּכָל־עֲמָלוֹ שְׂיַעֲמֹל תַּחַת הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ

What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?

יִתְרוֹן advantage, profit, excellency.

עֲמָל trouble; mischief; toil, labour / (noun: 22 times. 1:3; 2:10<2x>,11,18,19,20,21,22,24; 3:13; 4:4,6,8,9; 5:15[14],18[17],19[18]; 6:7; 8:15; 9:9; 10:15).

עָמַל labour, toil (verb. 13 times. 1:3; 2:11, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22; 3:9; 4:8; 5:16[15], 18[17]; 8:17; 9:9).

שָׂמַשׁ (35 times. 1:3,5<2x>,9,14; 2:11,17,18,19,20,22; 3:16; 4:1,3,7,15; 5:13[12],18[17]; 6:1,5,12; 7:11; 8:9,15<2x>,17; 9:3,6,9<2x>,11,13; 10:5; 11:7; 12:2).

תַּחַת הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ (29 times, except 1:5<2x>; 6:5; 7:11; 11:7; 12:2).

* תַּחַת הַשָּׁמַיִם (1:13; 2:3; 3:1).

1:4 דּוֹר הַלֵּךְ וְדוֹר בָּא וְהָאָרֶץ לְעוֹלָם עֹמֶדֶת

A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains for ever.

דּוֹר (or דֵּר) period, generation; habitation, dwelling.

עָמַד (qal ptcp f sg) stand, remain, endure, take one's stand.

עוֹלָם (7 times) 1:4,10; 2:16; 3:11,14; 9:6; 12:5.

1:5 וְזָרַח הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ וּבָא הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ וְאֶל־מְקוֹמוֹ שׁוֹאֵף זֹרַח הוּא שָׁם

The sun rises and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it rises.

זָרַח rise, come forth, break out, arise, rise up, shine.

שָׂאף gasp, pant after, snuff; be eager for; thirst for one's blood (from actions of animals; (fig) crush, trample, trample upon).

הוֹלֵךְ אֶל-הָרֹם וְסוֹבֵב אֶל-צָפוֹן סוֹבֵב סָבֵב הוֹלֵךְ הָרוּחַ וְעַל-סְבִיבָתוֹ שָׁב הָרוּחַ 1:6

The wind blows to the south, and goes round to the north; round and round goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns.

סָבֵב turn, turn about or around or aside or back or towards, go about or around, surround, encircle, change direction.

סְבִיב (or סְבִיבָה) places round about, circuit, round about.

רוּחַ (24 times) 1:6<2x>,14,17; 2:11,17,26; 3:19,21<2x>; 4:4,6,16; 5:16[15]; 6:9; 7:8<2x>,9; 8:8<2x>; 10:4; 11:4,5; 12:7.

כָּל-הַנְּחָלִים הַלְכִים אֶל-הַיָּם וְהַיָּם אֵינָנו מְלֵא 1:7

אֶל-מְקוֹם שֶׁהַנְּחָלִים הַלְכִים שָׁם הֵם שָׁבִים לְלַכֵּת

All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they flow again.

אֵין nothing, not, nought; have not (of possession); (adv) without, for lack of.

נַחַל (or נַחְלָה) torrent, valley, wadi, torrent-valley.

כָּל-הַדְּבָרִים יִגְעִים לֹא-יִוָּכַל אִישׁ לְדַבֵּר 1:8

לֹא-תִשְׁבַּע עֵין לְרֵאוֹת וְלֹא-תִמְלֵא אָזן מִשְׁמֹעַ

All things are full of weariness; a man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.

יִגַּע weary, wearisome.

יָכַל (or יָכוֹל) prevail, overcome, endure, have power, be able.

שָׂבַע (or שָׂבַע) be satisfied, be sated, be fulfilled, be surfeited.

מְלֵא (or מְלֵא) (Niphal) be filled, be armed, be satisfied; be accomplished.

רָאָה see, look at (verb. 46 times. 1:8,10,14,16; 2:1,3,12,13,24<2x>; 3:13,16,18,22<2x>; 4:1,3,4,7,15; 5:8,11,13,18<2x>; 6:1,5,6; 7:11,13,15,27,29; 8:9,10,16<2x>,17; 9:9,11,13; 10:5,7; 11:4,7; 12:3)

מִה-שֶׁהָיָה הוּא שֶׁיְהִיָּה וּמִה-שֶׁנַּעֲשָׂה הוּא שֶׁיַּעֲשֶׂה וְאֵין כָּל-חֲדָשׁ תַּחַת הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ 1:9

What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; and there is nothing new under the sun.

שֶׁ = אֲשֶׁר (relative pronoun) that, which; (conjunction) that.

עָשָׂה (Niphal) be done, be made, be produced; be offered; be observed; be used.

(עָשָׂה verb: 43 times. 1:9<2x>,13,14; 2:2,3,5,6,8,11<2x>,12,17; 3:9,11<2x>,12,14<2x>; 4:1,3; 5:1[4:17]; 6:12; 7:14, 20, 29; 8:3,4,9,10, 11<2x>,12,14,16,17; 9:3,6,10<2x>; 10:19; 11:5; 12:12).

* מַעֲשֵׂה deed, work, thing done (noun: 20 times. 1:14; 2:4,11,17; 3:11,17,22; 4:3,4; 5:5[4]; 7:13; 8:9,11,14<2x>,17<2x>; 9:10; 11:5; 12:14).

יֵשׁ דְּבַר שֶׁיֵּאמַר רְאֵה-זֶה חֲדָשׁ הוּא כְּבָר הָיָה לְעֵלְמַיִם אֲשֶׁר הָיָה מִלְּפָנֵינוּ 1:10

Is there a thing of which it is said, "See, this is new"? It has been already, in the ages before us.

יֵשׁ being, existence, substance, there is, there are.

אֵין זְכוֹרוֹן לְרֵאשִׁיטִים וְגַם לְאַחֲרָנִים שֶׁיְהִי לֹא-יְהִיָּה לָהֶם זְכוֹרוֹן עִם שֶׁיְהִי לְאַחֲרָנָה 1:11

There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of later things yet to happen among those who come after.

זְכָרוֹן memorial, reminder, remembrance.

רִאשׁוֹן (or רִאשׁוֹן) (adj) first, primary, former; (noun) ancestors; former things; foremost (of location); first (in time); (adv) first, before, formerly, at first.

אַחֲרָיוֹן (or אַחֲרָיוֹן) behind; following, subsequent; western; later, subsequent, latter, last.

1:12 אֲנִי קִהַלְתִּי הַיְיָ מֶלֶךְ עַל־יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּיְרוּשָׁלַיִם

I the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem.

1:13 וְנָתַתִּי אֶת־לִבִּי לְדַרוֹשׁ וְלַתּוֹר בַּחֲכָמָה עַל כָּל־אֲשֶׁר נַעֲשָׂה תַּחַת הַשָּׁמַיִם

הוּא עֲנִין רָע נָתַן אֱלֹהִים לְבָנֵי הָאָדָם לְעִנּוֹת בּוֹ

And I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to the sons of men to be busy with.

דָּרַשׁ resort to, seek, seek with care, enquire, require.

תּוֹר seek, search out, spy out, explore.

עֲנִין occupation, task, job (8 times. 1:13; 2:23,26; 3:10; 4:8; 5:3[2],14[13]; 8:16).

רָע bad, unpleasant, evil; sad, unhappy.

עָנָה be occupied, be busied with; afflict, oppress, humble, be afflicted.

לֵב inner man, mind, will, heart (41 times. 1:13,16<2x>,17; 2:1,3<2x>,10<2x>,15<2x>,20,22,23; 3:11,17,18; 5:2[1],20[19]; 7:2,3,4<2x>,7,21,22,25,26; 8:5,9,11,16; 9:1,3<2x>,7; 10:2<2x>,3; 11:9<2x>).

חֲכָמָה (28 times) 1:13,16<2x>,17,18; 2:3,9,12,13,21,26; 7:10,11,12<2x>,19,23,25; 8:1,16; 9:10,13,15,16<2x>,18; 10:1,10.

חָכָם or other words of the same root (25 times): 2:14,15,16<2x>,19<2x>; 4:13; 6:8; 7:4,5,7,16,19,23; 8:1,5,17; 9:1,11,15,17; 10:2,12; 12:9,11.

אֱלֹהִים God (39times. 1:13; 2:24,26; 3:10,11,13,14<2x>,15,17,18; 5:1[4:17]; 5:2[1]<2x>, 4[3],5[4], 16[15], 17[16]<2x>, 19[18]; 6:2<2x>; 7:13,14,18,26,29; 8:2,12,13,15,17; 9:1,7; 11:5,9; 12:7,13,14. c.f. בּוֹרְאֵיךְ 12:1).

* Cf. 3:10.

1:14 רָאִיתִי אֶת־כָּל־הַמַּעֲשִׂים שֶׁנַּעֲשׂוּ תַּחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ וְהִנֵּה הַכֹּל הֶבֶל וְרֵעוּת רוּחַ

I have seen everything that is done under the sun; and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind.

מַעֲשֶׂה deed, work, thing done, act, labour; business, pursuit, undertaking, enterprise.

רֵעוּת striving (רֵעוּת רֵיחַ) 1:14; 2:11,17,26; 4:4,6; 6:9); female companion, mate, neighbour woman; (Aramaic) good pleasure, will (Ezra 5:17; 7:18).

1:15 מַעֲוֹת לֹא־יִוָּכַל לְתַקֵּן וְחִסְרוֹן לֹא־יִוָּכַל לְהִמְנוֹת

What is crooked cannot be made straight, and what is lacking cannot be numbered.

עָוָה (Pual) thing bent/crooked (participle).

תִּקַּן become straight.

חִסְרוֹן the thing lacking, defect, deficiency.

מְנוּחָה (Niphal) be counted, be numbered; be reckoned, be assigned.

1:16 דִּבַּרְתִּי אֲנִי עִם־לְבִי לֵאמֹר אֲנִי הִנֵּה הִגְדַּלְתִּי וְהוֹסַפְתִּי חֲכָמָה

עַל כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־הָיָה לִפְנֵי עַל־יְרוּשָׁלַיִם וְלְבִי רָאָה הַרְבֵּה חֲכָמָה וְדָעַת

I said to myself, "I have acquired great wisdom, surpassing all who were over Jerusalem before me; and my mind has had great experience of wisdom and knowledge."

גָּדַל (Hiphil) make great, magnify; do great things.

יָסַף (Hiphil) cause to add, increase; do more, do again.

דָּעַת knowledge, perception, skill; discernment, understanding, wisdom (7 times.

1:16,17,18; 2:21,26; 7:12; 9:10).

1:17 וְאֶתְנָה לְבִי לְדָעַת חֲכָמָה וְדָעַת הוֹלָלוֹת וְשִׂכְלוֹת יַדְעֹתַי שְׁגִמְזָה הוּא רַעְיוֹן רוּחַ

And I applied my mind to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is but a striving after wind.

הוֹלָלָה madness (Ecc. 2:12; 7:25; 9:3; 10:13).

סִכְלוֹת (or שִׂכְלוֹת) folly, foolishness.

רַעְיוֹן longing, striving (Ecc. 4:16; 2:22).

יָדַע know (verb. 33 times. 1:17<2x>; 2:14,19; 3:12,14; 4:13; 6:5,8,10,12; 7:22,25<2x>;

8:1,5<2x>,7,12,16,17; 9:1,5<2x>,11,12; 10:14,15; 11:2,5<2x>,6,9)

1:18 כִּי בָרַב חֲכָמָה רַב־כָּעַס וְיוֹסִיף דָּעַת יוֹסִיף מִכְּאוֹב

For in much wisdom is much vexation, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.

כָּעַס (or כַּעַשׁ) anger, vexation, provocation, grief, frustration.

מִכְּאוֹב (or מִכָּאֵב) pain, sorrow.

2:1 אָמַרְתִּי אֲנִי בְּלִבִּי לְכַהֲנָא אֲנִסְכָּה בְּשִׂמְחָה וְרָאָה בְּטוֹב וְהִנֵּה גַם־הוּא הֶבֶל

I said to myself, "Come now, I will make a test of pleasure; enjoy yourself." But behold, this also was vanity.

אֲנִסְכָּה (נִסָּה) piel impf 1 sg + suffix: 2 m sg) test, try; attempt, assay; prove.

שִׂמְחָה joy, mirth, gladness, gaiety, pleasure (noun. 8 times. 2:1,2,10,26; 5:20; 7:4; 8:15; 9:7).

וְרָאָה בְּטוֹב cf. 2:24 (וְהָרָאָה אֶת־נַפְשׁוֹ טוֹב); 3:13; 5:18; 6:6; 9:9.

טוֹב (47 times. 2:1,3,24<2x>,26<2x>; 3:12<2x>,13,22; 4:3,6,9<2x>,13; 5:5,18<2x>; 6:3,6,9,12; 7:1<2x>,2,3,5,8<2x>,10,11,14<2x>,18,20; 8:12,13,15; 9:2<2x>,4,7,16,18<2x>; 11:7; 12:14).

2:2 לְשִׂחוק אָמַרְתִּי מִהוֹלָל וְלְשִׂמְחָה מִה־זֶה עֲשֵׂה

I said of laughter, "It is mad," and of pleasure, "What use is it?"

שִׂחַק laugh, play, mock.

הֶלֶל (Pual) be praised, be made praiseworthy; be mad.

2:3 תָּרַתִּי בְּלִבִּי לְמִשׁוֹךְ בֵּינָן אֶת־בְּשָׂרִי וְלִבִּי נָהַג בַּחֲכָמָה וְלֵאחֲזוֹ בְּסִכְלוֹת

עַד אֲשֶׁר־אֶרְאֶה אִי־זֶה טוֹב לְבִנֵי הָאָדָם אֲשֶׁר יַעֲשׂוּ תַחַת הַשָּׁמַיִם מִסְפָּר יָמֵי חַיֵּיהֶם

I searched with my mind how to cheer my body with wine -- my mind still guiding me with wisdom -- and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the sons of men to do under heaven during the few days of their life.

מִשָּׂךְ draw, drag, seize; cheer, attract, gratify.

נָהַג drive, lead, guide, conduct.

אָחַז grasp, take hold, seize, take possession.

אֵי where?, whence? which?, how? (in prefix with other adverb).

מִסְפָּר number.

2:4 הַגְדַּלְתִּי מַעֲשֵׂי בְנִיתִי לִי בַתִּים נָטַעְתִּי לִי כְרָמִים

I made great works; I built houses and planted vineyards for myself;

בָּנָה build, rebuild, establish, cause to continue.

נָטַע plant, fasten, fix, establish.

כֶּרֶם vineyard.

2:5 עָשִׂיתִי לִי גַנּוֹת וּפְרָדִסִּים וְנָטַעְתִּי בָהֶם עֵץ כָּל-פְּרֵי

I made myself gardens and parks, and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees.

גֶּנֶז garden, orchard.

פְּרָדִס park, preserve, enclosed garden, forest.

2:6 עָשִׂיתִי לִי בְרִכּוֹת מַיִם לְהַשְׁקוֹת מֵהֶם יַעַר צוֹמַחַ עֵצִים

I made myself pools from which to water the forest of growing trees.

בְּרִכָּה pool, pond.

שָׁקָה (Hiphil) water, irrigate; give drink to.

צֹמַח sprout, spring up, grow up.

2:7 קָנִיתִי עֲבָדִים וְשִׁפְחוֹת וּבְנֵי-בֵית הָיָה לִי גַם מִקְנֵה בָקָר וְצֹאן

הַרְבֵּה הָיָה לִי מִכָּל שֶׁהָיוּ לְפָנַי בִּירוּשָׁלַיִם

I bought male and female slaves, and had slaves who were born in my house; I had also great possessions of herds and flocks, more than any who had been before me in Jerusalem.

שִׁפְחָה maid, maid-servant, slavegirl.

מִקְנֵה cattle, livestock.

2:8 כָּנַסְתִּי לִי גַם-כֶּסֶף וְזָהָב וּסְגֻלַּת מְלָכִים וְהַמְדִינוֹת

עָשִׂיתִי לִי שָׁרִים וְשָׁרוֹת וְתַעֲנוּגַת בְּנֵי הָאָדָם שָׂדָה וְשָׂדוֹת

I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces; I got singers, both men and women, and many concubines, man's delight.

כָּנַס gather, collect, wrap.

סְגֻלָּה possession, property, valued property, peculiar treasure.

מְדִינָה province, district.

שָׁיר (or שׁוֹר) sing.

תַּעֲנוּג (or תַּעֲנוּגָה, תַּעֲנוּג) daintiness, luxury, pleasantness, delight, comfort.

שָׂדָה concubine, wife, harem.

2:9 וַגְּדַלְתִּי וְהוֹסַפְתִּי מִכָּל שֶׁהָיָה לְפָנַי בִּירוּשָׁלַיִם אֵף חֲכָמָתִי עִמָּדָה לִי

So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem; also my wisdom

remained with me.

עָמַד stand, remain, endure, take one's stand.

2:10 וְכֹל אֲשֶׁר שָׁאֲלוּ עֵינַי לֹא אֶצְלַתִּי מֵהֶם לֹא־מִנְעַתִּי אֶת־לִבִּי מִכָּל־שִׂמְחָה
כִּי־לִבִּי שָׂמַח מִכָּל־עֲמָלִי וְזֶה־הָיָה חֶלְקִי מִכָּל־עֲמָלִי

And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them; I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil.

שָׁאֵל (or שְׁאֵל) ask, enquire, borrow, beg, seek.

אֶצַּל lay aside, reserve, withdraw, withhold, set apart.

מָנַע withhold, hold back, keep back, refrain, deny, keep restrain, hinder.

חֶלֶק portion, share, part, territory, one's possession, award.

שִׂמְחָה joyful, merry, glad (adjective) + שִׂמַּח rejoice, be glad (verb). 9 times (2:10; 3:12,22; 4:16; 5:19; 8:15; 10:19; 11:8,9).

2:11 וּפְנִיתִי אֲנִי בְּכָל־מַעֲשֵׂי שְׁעָשׂוּ יָדַי וּבְעֵמָל שֶׁעֲמַלְתִּי לַעֲשׂוֹת
וְהִנֵּה הַכֹּל הֶבֶל וְרֵעוּת רוּחַ וְאֵין יִתְרוֹן תַּחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ

Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had spent in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.

פָּנָה turn toward or from or away.

2:12 וּפְנִיתִי אֲנִי לְרֵאוֹת חֲכָמָה וְהוֹלָלוֹת וְסִכְלוֹת
כִּי מָה הָאָדָם שִׁיבּוֹא אַחֲרַי הַמֹּלֵךְ אֵת אֲשֶׁר־כָּבַר עָשׂוּהוּ

So I turned to consider wisdom and madness and folly; for what can the man do who comes after the king? Only what he has already done.

2:13 וְרֵאִיתִי אֲנִי שֵׁשׁ יִתְרוֹן לַחֲכָמָה מִן־הַסִּכְלוֹת כִּי־תֵרוֹן הָאוֹר מִן־הַחֹשֶׁךְ
Then I saw that wisdom excels folly as light excels darkness.

2:14 הַחֲכָם עֵינָיו בְּרֵאשׁוֹ וְהַפְּסִיל בְּחֹשֶׁךְ הוֹלֵךְ
וַיִּרְעֵתִי גַם־אֲנִי שִׂמְקָרָה אַחַד יִקְרָה אֶת־כָּל־הֵם

The wise man has his eyes in his head, but the fool walks in darkness; and yet I perceived that one fate comes to all of them.

מְקָרָה unforeseen meeting or event, accident, happening; fortune, fate (7 times. 2:14,15; 3:19<3x>; 9:2,3).

קָרָה encounter, meet, befall, happen, come to meet (3 times. 2:14,15; 9:11).

2:15 וְאָמַרְתִּי אֲנִי בְּלִבִּי כְּמִקְרָה הַפְּסִיל גַם־אֲנִי יִקְרָנִי
וְלָמָּה חֲכַמְתִּי אֲנִי אֲזִ יוֹתֵר וְדַבְּרֵתִי בְּלִבִּי שֶׁגַם־זֶה הֶבֶל

Then I said to myself, "What befalls the fool will befall me also; why then have I been so very wise?" And I said to myself that this also is vanity.

2:16 כִּי אֵין זְכוֹרוֹן לַחֲכָם עִם־הַפְּסִיל לְעוֹלָם בְּשִׂכְבָּר הַיָּמִים הַבָּאִים
הַכֹּל נִשְׁכַּח וְאֵיךְ יָמוּת הַחֲכָם עִם־הַפְּסִיל

For of the wise man as of the fool there is no enduring remembrance, seeing that in the days

to come all will have been long forgotten. How the wise man dies just like the fool!

בְּשׁ because (cf. 4:9; 7:2; 8:4; Gen 6:3).

שָׁכַח (or שָׁכַחַ) (Niphal) be forgotten.

2:17 וְשָׂנֵאתִי אֶת־הַחַיִּים כִּי רַע עָלַי הַמַּעֲשֵׂה שֶׁנַּעֲשָׂה תַּחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ
כִּי־הַכֹּל הֶבֶל וְרֵעוּת רוּחַ

So I hated life, because what is done under the sun was grievous to me; for all is vanity and a striving after wind.

שָׂנֵא hate, be hateful.

2:18 וְשָׂנֵאתִי אֲנִי אֶת־כָּל־עֲמָלִי שֶׁאֲנִי עֹמֵל תַּחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ
שֶׁאֲנִי־חֹנֵן לְאָדָם שֶׁיְהִיָּה אַחֲרָי

I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me;

נָחַ (Hiph) cause to rest, give rest to, make quiet; lay or set down, deposit, let lie, place; let remain, leave; permit.

2:19 וּמִי יוֹדֵעַ הַחֲכָם יְהִיָּה אוֹ סָכָל וַיִּשְׁלַט בְּכָל־עֲמָלִי
שֶׁעֲמַלְתִּי וְשֶׁחֲכַמְתִּי תַּחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ גַּם־זֶה הֶבֶל

and who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity.

סָכָל fool.

שָׁלַט domineer, exercise power over, dominate, have mastery, be master.

2:20 וּסְבוֹתִי אֲנִי לִי־אֵשׁ אֶת־לִבִּי עַל כָּל־הָעֵמֶל שֶׁעֲמַלְתִּי תַּחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ

So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun,

סָבַב turn, turn about or around or aside or back or towards.

יָאֵשׁ (Piel) cause to despair; (interj.) it is hopeless!

2:21 כִּי־יֹשׁ אָדָם שֶׁעֲמָלוֹ בַּחֲכָמָה וּבְדַעַת וּבְכִשְׁרוֹן
וּלְאָדָם שֶׁלֹּא עָמַל־בוֹ יִתְנַנֵּן חֶלְקוֹ גַּם־זֶה הֶבֶל וְרָעָה רַבָּה

because sometimes a man who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by a man who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil.

כִּשְׁרוֹן success, skill, profit.

2:22 כִּי מָה־הִזָּה לְאָדָם בְּכָל־עֲמָלוֹ וּבְרַעְיוֹן לְבוֹ שֶׁהוּא עֹמֵל תַּחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ

What has a man from all the toil and strain with which he toils beneath the sun?

הָיָה (qal ptcp m sg) fall, be, become, exist, happen.

רָעִיוֹן longing, striving.

2:23 כִּי כָל־יָמָיו מְכַאֲבִים וְכַעַס עֲנִינוֹ גַּם־בַּלַּיְלָה לֹא־שָׁכַב לְבוֹ גַּם־זֶה הֶבֶל הוּא

For all his days are full of pain, and his work is a vexation; even in the night his mind does not rest. This also is vanity.

עֲנִין occupation, task, job.

אִין־טוֹב בְּאָדָם שִׂיאֲכַל וְשָׁתָה וְהִרְאָה אֶת־נַפְשׁוֹ טוֹב בְּעַמְלֹו 2:24
גַּם־זֶה רְאִיתִי אֲנִי כִּי מִיַּד הָאֱלֹהִים הִיא

There is nothing better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God;

טוֹב אֶת־נַפְשׁוֹ טוֹב cf. 2:1 (וְהִרְאָה בְּטוֹב); 3:13; 5:18; 6:6; 9:9
נַפְשׁ 2:24; 4:8; 6:2,3,7,9; 7:28 (7 times).

כִּי מִי יֵאָכֵל וּמִי יִחַוֵּשׁ חוּץ מִמּוֹנֵי 2:25

(RSV) for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment?

(NKJ) For who can eat, or who can have enjoyment, more than I?

חוֹשׁ (Qal) make haste; (Hiphil) show haste, act quickly, hasten, come quickly; enjoy, be excited.

חוּץ (or חָץ) outside, outward, street, the outside; מִן apart from.

כִּי לְאָדָם שְׂטוֹב לְפָנָיו נָתַן חֵכְמָה וְדַעַת וְשִׂמְחָה וְלַחַוְטָא נָתַן 2:26

עֲנִין לְאִסוּף וְלִכְנוּס לְתַת לְטוֹב לְפָנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים גַּם־זֶה הֶבֶל וְרַעוּת רוּחַ

For to the man who pleases him God gives wisdom and knowledge and joy; but to the sinner he gives the work of gathering and heaping, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

חַטָּא sin, miss, miss the way, go wrong, incur guilt, forfeit.

לְכָל־זְמַן וְעַת לְכָל־חֶפֶץ תַּחַת הַשָּׁמַיִם 3:1

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

זְמַן a set time, appointed time, time.

עֵת time; experiences, fortunes; occurrence, occasion (38 times. 3:1, 2<4x>, 3<4x>, 4<4x>, 5<4x>, 6<4x>, 7<4x>, 8<4x>, 11, 17; 7:17; 8:5,6; 9:8,11,12<2x>).

חֶפֶץ delight, pleasure; desire, longing; matter.

עַת לְלֶדֶת וְעַת לָמוּת עַת לְטַעַת וְעַת לְעִקוֹר נְטוּעַ 3:2

a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

עִקַּר pluck up, root up.

עַת לְהַרוֹג וְעַת לְרַפּוֹא עַת לְפָרוֹץ וְעַת לְבַנוֹת 3:3

a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

פָּרַץ break through or down or over, burst, breach.

עַת לְבִכּוֹת וְעַת לְשִׁחוֹק עַת סְפוֹד וְעַת רִקּוֹד 3:4

a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

בָּכָה weep, bewail, cry, shed tears.

סָפַד wail, lament, mourn.

רָקַד skip about; dance, leap.

עַת לְהַשְׁלִיךְ אֲבָנִים וְעַת כְּנוּס אֲבָנִים עַת לְחַבּוֹק וְעַת לְרַחֵק מִחֶבֶק 3:5

a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a

time to refrain from embracing;

שָׁלַךְ (Hiphil) throw, cast, throw away, cast off, shed, cast down.

חָבַק (Qal/ Piel) embrace, fold one's hands in idleness.

רָחַק be or become far, be or become distant, be removed, go far away.

3:6 עֵת לְבַקֵּשׁ וְעֵת לְאַבֵּד עֵת לְשָׁמֹר וְעֵת לְהַשְׁלִיךְ

a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

בִּקֵּשׁ (Piel) seek to find; desire, demand; require, exact; ask, request.

אַבֵּד (Piel) destroy, kill, cause to perish, to give up (as lost), exterminate; blot out, do away with, cause to vanish; (fig.) cause to stray, lose.

3:7 עֵת לְקַרֹּעַ וְעֵת לְתַפּוֹר עֵת לְחַשׂוֹת וְעֵת לְדַבֵּר

a time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

קָרַע tear, tear in pieces.

תָּפַר sew, sew together.

חָשָׂה be silent, quiet, still, inactive.

3:8 עֵת לְאַהֵב וְעֵת לְשֹׂא עֵת מִלְחָמָה וְעֵת שְׁלוֹם

a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

3:9 מַה־יִּתְרוֹן הָעוֹשֶׂה בְּאִשֶּׁר הוּא עֹמֵל

What gain has the worker from his toil?

3:10 רָאִיתִי אֶת־הָעֲנָנִים אֲשֶׁר נָתַן אֱלֹהִים לְבָנֵי הָאָדָם לְעֲנוֹת בּוֹ

I have seen the business that God has given to the sons of men to be busy with.

* Cf. 1:13.

3:11 אֶת־הַכֹּל עָשָׂה יָפָה בְּעֵתוֹ גַּם אֶת־הָעֹלָם נָתַן בְּלִבָּם

מִבְּלִי אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יִמְצָא הָאָדָם אֶת־הַמַּעֲשֶׂה אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂה הָאֱלֹהִים מֵרֵאשִׁית וְעַד־סוֹף

He has made everything beautiful in its time; also he has put eternity into man's mind, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

עוֹלָם (or [עֹלָם] long duration, antiquity, futurity, for ever, ever, everlasting, evermore, perpetual, old, ancient, world (7 times. 1:4,10; 2:16; 3:11,14; 9:6; 12:5).

בְּלִי wearing out; (adv. of negation) without, no, not.

סוֹף end, conclusion.

* Cf. 7:14; 11:8.

3:12 יָדַעְתִּי כִּי אֵין טוֹב בָּם כִּי אִם־לְשִׂמּוֹחַ וְלַעֲשׂוֹת טוֹב בְּחַיֵּיו

I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live;

3:13 וְגַם כָּל־הָאָדָם שְׂיֵאָכַל וְשָׁתָה וְרָאָה טוֹב בְּכָל־עֲמָלוֹ מִתַּת אֱלֹהִים הִיא

also that it is God's gift to man that every one should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil.

מִתַּת gift, reward.

3:14 יִדְעֵתִי כִּי כָּל־אֲשֶׁר יַעֲשֶׂה הָאֱלֹהִים הוּא יִהְיֶה לְעוֹלָם
עָלְיוֹ אֵין לְהוֹסִיף וּמִמֶּנּוּ אֵין לְגַרֵעַ וְהָאֱלֹהִים עָשָׂה שִׂירָאוֹ מִלְּפָנָיו

I know that whatever God does endures for ever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has made it so, in order that men should fear before him.

גָּרַע diminish, restrain, withdraw, abate, keep back, do away, take from.

יָרָא fear, revere, be afraid.

3:15 מִה־שָּׁהִיָּה כָּבֵד הוּא וְאֲשֶׁר לְהִיּוֹת כָּבֵד הִיָּה וְהָאֱלֹהִים יִבְקֹשׁ אֶת־נִדְרָךָ

That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already has been; and God seeks what has been driven away.

רָדַף (Niphal) be pursued; one pursued (ptcp.).

3:16 וְעוֹד רָאִיתִי תַּחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ מְקוֹם הַמִּשְׁפָּט שָׁמָּה הָרָשָׁע וּמְקוֹם הַצְּדָק שָׁמָּה הָרָשָׁע

Moreover I saw under the sun that in the place of justice, even there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness.

מִשְׁפָּט judgment, justice, ordinance.

רָשָׁע wrong, wickedness, guilt.

3:17 אָמַרְתִּי אָנֹכִי בְּלִבִּי אֶת־הַצְּדִיק וְאֶת־הָרָשָׁע יִשְׁפֹּט הָאֱלֹהִים

כִּי־עַתָּה לְכָל־חַפְצֵי וְעַל כָּל־הַמַּעֲשֵׂה שָׁם

I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for he has appointed a time for every matter, and for every work.

3:18 אָמַרְתִּי אָנֹכִי בְּלִבִּי עַל־דְּבַרְתִּי בְּנֵי הָאָדָם לְבָרֶם הָאֱלֹהִים

וְלִרְאוֹת שֶׁהֵם־בְּהֵמָה הֵמָּה לָהֶם

I said in my heart with regard to the sons of men that God is testing them to show them that they are but beasts.

דְּבַרְתִּי cause, manner, reason.

בָּרַר purify, select, polish, purge, cleanse or make bright, test or prove.

בְּהֵמָה beast, cattle, animal, livestock.

3:19 כִּי מִקְרָה בְּנֵי־הָאָדָם וּמִקְרָה הַבְּהֵמָה וּמִקְרָה אֶחָד לָהֶם כְּמוֹת זֶה כֵּן מוֹת זֶה

וְרוּחַ אֶחָד לְכָל וּמוֹתֵר הָאָדָם מִן־הַבְּהֵמָה אֵין כִּי הַכֹּל הֶבֶל

For the fate of the sons of men and the fate of beasts is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and man has no advantage over the beasts; for all is vanity.

מוֹתֵר pre-eminence, abundance, profit, superiority.

3:20 הַכֹּל הוֹלֵךְ אֶל־מְקוֹם אֶחָד הַכֹּל הִיָּה מִן־הָעֶפֶר וְהַכֹּל שָׁב אֶל־הָעֶפֶר

All go to one place; all are from the dust, and all turn to dust again.

עֶפֶר dry earth, dust, powder, ashes, earth, ground, mortar, rubbish.

3:21 מִי יוֹדֵעַ רוּחַ בְּנֵי הָאָדָם הָעֹלָה הִיא לְמַעְלָה

וְרוּחַ הַבְּהֵמָה הַיֹּרֶדֶת הִיא לְמַטָּה לְאָרֶץ

Who knows whether the spirit of man goes upward and the spirit of the beast goes down to the earth?

מֵעַל higher part, upper part; above; on the top of; upwards, higher.

מִטָּה downwards, below, under, beneath.

3:22 וְרָאִיתִי כִּי אֵין טוֹב מֵאֲשֶׁר יִשְׂמַח הָאָדָם בְּמַעֲשָׂיו כִּי־הוּא חֶלְקוֹ
כִּי מִי יבִיאֵנוּ לִרְאוֹת בְּמָה שְׂיִהְיֶה אַחֲרָיו

So I saw that there is nothing better than that a man should enjoy his work, for that is his lot; who can bring him to see what will be after him?

בוא (Hiphil) lead in, carry in, bring in, cause to come in, gather.

4:1 וְשָׁבַתִּי אֲנִי וְאָרְאָה אֶת־כָּל־הָעֲשָׂקִים אֲשֶׁר נַעֲשִׂים תַּחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ
וְהִנֵּה דִמְעַת הָעֲשָׂקִים וְאֵין לָהֶם מְנַחֵם וּמִי־דִמְעָהּ עֲשָׂקֵיהֶם כַּחַ וְאֵין לָהֶם מְנַחֵם

Again I saw all the oppressions that are practiced under the sun. And behold, the tears of the oppressed, and they had no one to comfort them! On the side of their oppressors there was power, and there was no one to comfort them.

שוב return, turn back; again.

עָשָׂק press upon, oppress, violate, defraud, do violence, get deceitfully.

דִּמְעָה tears.

נָחַם (Piel) comfort, console.

4:2 וְשָׁבַח אֲנִי אֶת־הַמֵּתִים שְׂכָבָר מֵתוֹ מִן־הַחַיִּים אֲשֶׁר הֵמָּה חַיִּים עַדְנָה

And I thought the dead who are already dead more fortunate than the living who are still alive;

שָׁבַח (Piel) soothe, still.

עַדְנָה (or עַדְנָה) hitherto, still, yet.

4:3 וְטוֹב מִשְׁנֵיהֶם אֶת אֲשֶׁר־עַדְנָה לֹא הָיָה

אֲשֶׁר לֹא־רָאָה אֶת־הַמַּעֲשָׂה הָרָע אֲשֶׁר נַעֲשָׂה תַּחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ

but better than both is he who has not yet been, and has not seen the evil deeds that are done under the sun.

4:4 וְרָאִיתִי אֲנִי אֶת־כָּל־עֵמָל וְאֶת כָּל־כְּשָׁרוֹן הַמַּעֲשָׂה

כִּי הִיא קִנְאֵת־אִישׁ מִרֵעֵהוּ גַם־זֶה הַבָּל וְרֵעוֹת רוּחַ

Then I saw that all toil and all skill in work come from a man's envy of his neighbor. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

קִנְאָה ardour, zeal, jealousy.

רֵעַ (or רֵיעַ) friend, companion, fellow, another person.

4:5 הַכֹּסִיל חִבֵּק אֶת־יָדָיו וְאָכַל אֶת־בָּשָׂרוֹ

The fool folds his hands, and eats his own flesh.

4:6 טוֹב מִלֵּא כַף נַחַת מִמְּלֵא חֲפָנִים עֵמָל וְרֵעוֹת רוּחַ

Better is a handful of quietness than two hands full of toil and a striving after wind.

נַחַת rest.

חֲפֵן handfuls, hollow of the hand.

וְשָׁבְתִי אֲנִי וְאָרְאָה הֶבֶל תַּחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ 4:7

Again, I saw vanity under the sun:

יֵשׁ אֶחָד וְאִין שְׁנֵי גַם בֵּן וְאָח אִין-לוֹ וְאִין קֵץ לְכָל-עֲמָלוֹ גַם-עֵינָיו [עֵינֹן] 4:8
 לֹא-תִשְׂבַּע עֶשֶׂר וּלְמִי אֲנִי עֹמֵל וּמְחַסֵּר אֶת-נַפְשִׁי מִטוֹבָה גַם-זֶה הֶבֶל וְעֵינָיו רָע הוּא

a person who has no one, either son or brother, yet there is no end to all his toil, and his eyes are never satisfied with riches, so that he never asks, "For whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?" This also is vanity and an unhappy business.

שָׂבַע (or שִׂבַּע) be satisfied, be sated, be fulfilled, be surfeited.

עֶשֶׂר wealth, riches.

חָסַר (Piel) cause to lack.

טוֹבִים הַשְּׁנַיִם מִן-הָאֶחָד אֲשֶׁר יִשְׁלָהֶם שָׂכָר טוֹב בְּעֲמָלָם 4:9

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil.

אֲשֶׁר because (cf. 2:16 בָּשׂ ; 7:2; 8:4; Gen 6:3).

שָׂכָר hire, wages, reward, pay; fare, fee, passage-money.

כִּי אִם-יִפְּלוּ הָאֶחָד יָקִים אֶת-חֲבֵרוֹ וְאִילוֹ הָאֶחָד שְׁיִפּוֹל וְאִין שְׁנֵי לְהַקִּימוֹ 4:10

For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up.

אֵי woe, alas! / אִילוֹ woe to him (cf. 10:16).

גַּם אִם-יִשְׁכְּבוּ שְׁנַיִם וְחָם לָהֶם וְלֹא-אֶחָד אִיךָ יִחָם 4:11

Again, if two lie together, they are warm; but how can one be warm alone?

חָמָם be hot, become warm.

וְאִם-יִתְקַפּוּ הָאֶחָד הַשְּׁנַיִם יַעֲמְדוּ נִגְדוֹ וְהַחֹט הַמְּשַׁלֵּשׁ לֹא בְמַהֲרָה יִנְתַּק 4:12

And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

תִּקַּף prevail over or against, overcome, overpower.

חוט a thread, cord, line, string.

שֹׁלֵשׁ (Pual) be three years of age; be threefold.

מְהֵרָה haste, speed; hastily, speedily, in haste.

נִתַּק (Niphal) be drawn away, be drawn out; be torn apart or in two.

טוֹב יָלֵד מִסְכֵּן וְחָכָם מִמֶּלֶךְ זָקֵן וְכַסִּיל אֲשֶׁר לֹא-יִרְדַּע לְהַזְהִיר עוֹד 4:13

Better is a poor and wise youth than an old and foolish king, who will no longer take advice,

מִסְכֵּן poor, poor man.

זָהַר (Niphal) be taught, be admonished.

4:14 כִּי־מִבֵּית הַסּוּרִים יֵצֵא לְמֶלֶךְ כִּי גַם בְּמַלְכוּתוֹ נוֹלַד רָשׁ

even though he had gone from prison to the throne or in his own kingdom had been born poor.

סוּרִים (אָסַר qal pass ptc m pl) tie, bind, imprison.

מַלְכוּת (or מַלְכָּת) royalty, royal power, reign, kingdom, sovereign power.

רָשׁ be poor, be in want, lack; poor man.

4:15 רָאִיתִי אֶת־כָּל־הַחַיִּים הַמְהַלְכִים תַּחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ עִם הַיָּלֵד הַשָּׂנִי אֲשֶׁר יַעֲמֹד תַּחְתּוֹ

I saw all the living who move about under the sun, as well as that youth, who was to stand in his place;

הֵלֵךְ (Piel) walk.

4:16 אֵין־קֶץ לְכָל־הָעַם לְכָל־אֲשֶׁר־הָיָה לִפְנֵיהֶם

גַּם הָאֲחֵרוֹנִים לֹא יִשְׂמְחוּ־בּוֹ כִּי־גַם־זֶה הֶבֶל וְרַעֲיוֹן רוּחַ

there was no end of all the people; he was over all of them. Yet those who come later will not rejoice in him. Surely this also is vanity and a striving after wind.

5:1(4:17 in Hebrew Text) / 5:2-20(5:1-19 in Hebrew Text)

5:1 שָׁמַר רַגְלֶיךָ [רַגְלֶיךָ] כַּאֲשֶׁר תֵּלֵךְ אֶל־בֵּית הָאֱלֹהִים

וְקָרֹב לִשְׁמֹעַ מִתַּחַת הַכְּסִילִים זָבַח כִּי־אֵינָם יוֹדְעִים לַעֲשׂוֹת רָע

Guard your steps when you go to the house of God; to draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools; for they do not know that they are doing evil.

מִתַּחַת preposition (מִן) + נָתַן(qal inf constr: to give, put, set).

5:2 אַל־תַּבְהֵל עַל־פִּיךָ וְלִבְךָ אַל־יִמְהַר לְהוֹצִיא דְבַר לִפְנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים

כִּי הָאֱלֹהִים בַּשָּׁמַיִם וְאַתָּה עַל־הָאָרֶץ עַל־כֵּן יִהְיוּ דְבָרֶיךָ מְעַטִּים

Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven, and you upon earth; therefore let your words be few.

בַּהֵל (Piel) make haste, act hastily, be hurried, be hastened; dismay, terrify.

יֵצֵא (Hiphil) cause to go or come out, bring out, lead out; lead out; deliver.

5:3 כִּי בָּא הַחֲלוֹם בְּרַב עֲנָן וְקוֹל כְּסִיל בְּרַב דְּבָרִים

For a dream comes with much business, and a fool's voice with many words.

5:4 כַּאֲשֶׁר תִּדְרַךְ נֶדַר לְאֱלֹהִים אַל־תֵּאָחֵר לְשַׁלְּמוֹ

כִּי אֵין חֶפֶץ בְּכִסְיִלִים אֵת אֲשֶׁר־תִּדְרַךְ שְׁלֹם

When you vow a vow to God, do not delay paying it; for he has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you vow.

נֶדַר (Qal) vow, make a vow.

אָחֵר (Piel) delay, wait, stay behind.

שָׁלַם (Piel) complete, finish; make safe; make whole or good, restore, make compensation; make good, pay; requite, recompense, reward.

טוב אשר לא־תִדַּר מִשְׁתַּדֵּר וְלֹא תִשָּׁלֵם 5:5

It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.

אַל־תִּתֵּן אֶת־פִּיךָ לַחֲטִיא אֶת־בְּשָׂרְךָ וְאַל־תֹּאמֶר לִפְנֵי הַמַּלְאָךְ כִּי שָׁגַגְתָּ הִיא 5:6
לְמָה יִקְצֹף הָאֱלֹהִים עַל־קוֹלְךָ וְחָבַל אֶת־מַעֲשֵׂה יָדֶיךָ

Let not your mouth lead you into sin, and do not say before the messenger that it was a mistake; why should God be angry at your voice, and destroy the work of your hands?

חטא (Hiphil) miss the mark; induce to sin, cause to sin; bring into guilt.

שָׁגַגְתָּ sin, sin of error or inadvertence, inadvertent sin, error.

קָצַף be displeased, be angry, fret oneself, be wroth.

חָבַל destroy, ruin.

כִּי בָרַב חֲלֵמוֹת וְהַבָּלִים וּדְבָרִים הַרְבֵּה כִּי אֶת־הָאֱלֹהִים יִרָא 5:7

For when dreams increase, empty words grow many: but do you fear God.

אִם־עֵשֶׂק רָשׁ וְגַזֵּל מִשְׁפָּט וְצָדֵק תִּרְאֶה בְּמִדְיָנָה אַל־תִּתְמַחַם עַל־הַחֲפִיץ 5:8
כִּי גְבוּהַ מֵעַל גְּבוּהַ שֹׁמֵר וּגְבוּהִים עֲלֵיהֶם

If you see in a province the poor oppressed and justice and right violently taken away, do not be amazed at the matter; for the high official is watched by a higher, and there are yet higher ones over them.

עֵשֶׂק oppression, extortion, injury; gain by extortion.

רוּשׁ (qal ptcp m sg) be poor, be in want or hunger, lack; poor man (subst).

גַּזֵּל robbery, something plundered.

תִּמַּחַם be astounded, be stunned, be amazed, be dumbfounded.

גְּבוּהַ high, lofty, tall; exalted in station; haughty, proud.

וַיִּתְרוֹן אֶרֶץ בְּכָל הַיּוֹם [הוּא] מִלֶּךְ לְשָׂרָה נֶעְבֵּד 5:9

But in all, a king is an advantage to a land with cultivated fields.

עָבַד (Niphal) be worked, be tilled (of land); make oneself a servant.

אִהַב כֶּסֶף לֹא־יִשְׂבַּע כֶּסֶף וּמִי־אִהַב בְּהֵמוֹן לֹא תִבּוּאָה גַם־זֶה הָבֵל 5:10

He who loves money will not be satisfied with money; nor he who loves wealth, with gain: this also is vanity.

הֵמוֹן (or הֶמוֹן) sound, murmur; tumult, multitude; great number, abundance, wealth.

תִּבּוּאָה produce, product, yield, crops; income, revenue; gain.

בְּרַבּוֹת הַטּוֹבָה רַבּוֹ אוֹכְלֶיהָ וּמַה־כִּשְׂרוֹן לִבְעָלֶיהָ כִּי אִם־רְאִיתָ [רְאוּתָ] עֵינָיו 5:11

When goods increase, they increase who eat them; and what gain has their owner but to see them with his eyes?

כִּשְׂרוֹן success, skill, profit.

מִתּוֹקָה שְׁנַת הָעֵבֶד אִם־מְעַט וְאִם־הַרְבֵּה יֹאכַל וְהַשָּׂבַע לְעֹשִׂיר 5:12
אֵינָנו מְנִיחַ לוֹ לִישׁוֹן

Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much; but the surfeit of the rich will not

let him sleep.

מְתוֹק (or מְתוֹק) sweet; sweetness, pleasant (thing).

שָׁנָה (or שָׁנָה) sleep.

5:13 יֵשׁ רָעָה חוֹלָה רָאִיתִי תַּחַת הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ עֹשֶׂר שָׁמֹר לְבַעְלָיו לְרָעָתוֹ

There is a grievous evil which I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt,

חָלָה be weak, be sick.

5:14 וְאָבֵר הָעֹשֶׂר הַהוּא בְּעֵנִין רָע וְהוֹלִיד בֶּן וְאִין בִּידוֹ מְאוּמָה

and those riches were lost in a bad venture; and he is father of a son, but he has nothing in his hand.

5:15 כְּאִשֶּׁר יֵצֵא מִבֶּטֶן אִמּוֹ עָרוֹם יָשׁוּב לְלֶכֶת כְּשָׁבָא וּמְאוּמָה

לֹא-יִשָּׂא בְּעַמְלוֹ שִׁילָךְ בִּידוֹ

As he came from his mother's womb he shall go again, naked as he came, and shall take nothing for his toil, which he may carry away in his hand.

עָרוֹם (or עָרֹם) naked, bare.

5:16 וְגַם-זֶה רָעָה חוֹלָה כָּל-עֲמַת שָׁבָא כִּן יֵלֵךְ וּמֵה-יִתְרוֹן לוֹ שְׁיַעֲמַל לְרוּחַ

This also is a grievous evil: just as he came, so shall he go; and what gain has he that he toiled for the wind,

לְעֲמַת Juxtaposition; close by, side by side with, alongside of, parallel with (cf. 7:14).

5:17 גַּם כָּל-יָמָיו בַּחֲשָׁךְ יֹאכַל וְכַעַס הָרַבָּה וְחֲלָיו וְקִצְפָּה

and spent all his days in darkness, in much vexation and sickness and resentment?

חֲלָי sickness.

קִצְפָּה wrath, anger; splinter, twig, broken twig.

5:18 הִנֵּה אֲשֶׁר-רָאִיתִי אֲנִי טוֹב אֲשֶׁר-יִפֶּה לְאֹכֹל-וְלִשְׁתּוֹת וְלִרְאוֹת טוֹבָה בְּכָל-עַמְלוֹ

שְׁיַעֲמַל תַּחַת-הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ מִסֹּפֶר יָמֵי-חַיָּו [חַיִּין] אֲשֶׁר-נָתַן-לוֹ הָאֱלֹהִים כִּי-הוּא חֶלְקוֹ

Behold, what I have seen to be good and to be fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life which God has given him, for this is his lot.

5:19 גַּם כָּל-הָאָדָם אֲשֶׁר נָתַן-לוֹ הָאֱלֹהִים עֹשֶׂר וּנְכָסִים וְהַשְּׁלִיטוֹ

לְאֹכַל מִמֶּנּוּ וְלִשְׂאֹת אֶת-חֶלְקוֹ וְלִשְׂמַח בְּעַמְלוֹ זֶה מַתַּת אֱלֹהִים הִיא

Every man also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and find enjoyment in his toil -- this is the gift of God.

נְכָס riches, treasures.

שָׁלַט (Hiphil) give power of; get mastery of.

מַתַּת gift, reward.

5:20 כִּי לֹא הָרַבָּה יִזְכֹּר אֶת-יָמָיו חַיָּו כִּי הָאֱלֹהִים מַעֲנֶה בְּשִׂמְחַת לְבוֹ

For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy

in his heart.

עָנָה (Hiphil) afflict.

6:1 יש רעה אשר ראיתי תחת השמש ורבה היא על-האדם

There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it lies heavy upon men:

6:2 איש אשר יתן-לו האלהים עשר ונכסים וכבוד ואיננו חסר לנפשו מפל אשר-יתאוה ולא-ישליטנו האלהים לאכל ממנו כי איש נכרי יאכלנו זה הכל וחלי רע הוא

a man to whom God gives wealth, possessions, and honor, so that he lacks nothing of all that he desires, yet God does not give him power to enjoy them, but a stranger enjoys them; this is vanity; it is a sore affliction.

אָוָה (Hithpael) desire, long for, lust after (of bodily appetites).

6:3 אם-יוליד איש מאה ושנים רבות יחיה ורב שיהיו ימי-שניו

ונפשו לא-תשבע מן-הטובה וגם-קבורה לא-היתה לו אמרתי טוב ממנו הנפל

If a man begets a hundred children, and lives many years, so that the days of his years are many, but he does not enjoy life's good things, and also has no burial, I say that an untimely birth is better off than he.

קְבוּרָה (or קְבֵרָה) grave, burial, burial site.

נִפְל (or נִפְל) untimely birth, abortion, miscarriage.

6:4 כי-בהבל בא ובהשך ילך ובהשך שמו יכסה

For it comes into vanity and goes into darkness, and in darkness its name is covered;

כָּסָה (Pual) be covered; be clothed.

6:5 גם-שמש לא-ראה ולא ידע נחת לזה מזה

moreover it has not seen the sun or known anything; yet it finds rest rather than he.

6:6 ואלו חיה אלף שנים פעמים וטובה לא ראה הלא אל-מקום אחד הכל הולך

Even though he should live a thousand years twice told, yet enjoy no good -- do not all go to the one place?

אֵלּוּ if, though (contrary to fact).

6:7 כל-עמל האדם לפיהו וגם-תנפש לא תמלא

All the toil of man is for his mouth, yet his appetite is not satisfied.

6:8 כי מה-יותר לחכם מן-הפסיל מה-לעני יודע להלך נגד החיים

For what advantage has the wise man over the fool? And what does the poor man have who knows how to conduct himself before the living?

6:9 טוב מראה עינים מהלך-נפש גם-זה הכל ורעות רוח

Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of desire; this also is vanity and a striving after wind.

6:10 מה-שתיה פבר נקרא שמו ונודע אשר-הוא אדם ולא-יוכל

לְדִין עִם שֶׁהַתְּקִיף [שֶׁתְּקִיף] מִמֶּנּוּ

Whatever has come to be has already been named, and it is known what man is, and that he is not able to dispute with one stronger than he.

דִּין (or דִּין) judge, contend, plead.

תְּקִיף mighty.

6:11 כִּי יִשְׁדַּבְּרוּ הַרְבֵּה מְרַבִּים הַבֵּל מֵהֵיטֵר לְאָדָם

The more words, the more vanity, and what is man the better?

6:12 כִּי מִי־יֹדַע מֵה־טוֹב לְאָדָם בְּחַיִּים מִסֹּפֵר יְמֵי־חַיֵּי הַבֵּלוֹ וַיַּעֲשֶׂם

כִּצֵּל אֲשֶׁר מִי־יִגִּיד לְאָדָם מֵה־יְהִיָּה אַחֲרָיו תַּחַת הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ

For who knows what is good for man while he lives the few days of his vain life, which he passes like a shadow? For who can tell man what will be after him under the sun?

7:1 טוֹב שֵׁם מִשֶּׁמֶן טוֹב וַיּוֹם הַמָּוֶת מִיּוֹם הַוָּלְדוֹ

A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death, than the day of birth.

יָלַד (Niphal) be born.

7:2 טוֹב לָלֶכֶת אֶל־בַּיִת־אֵבֶל מִלָּכֶת אֶל־בַּיִת מִשְׁתֵּה בְּאֲשֶׁר הוּא סוֹף

כָּל־הָאָדָם וְהַחַי יָתֵן אֶל־לְבוֹ

It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting; for this is the end of all men, and the living will lay it to heart.

אֵבֶל mourning.

מִשְׁתֵּה feast, drink, banquet.

בְּאֲשֶׁר because (cf. 2:16 בִּשְׁ ; 4:9 אֲשֶׁר 8:4; Gen 6:3).

7:3 טוֹב כַּעַס מִשְׂחֵק כִּי־בָרַע פָּנִים יֵיטֵב לֵב

Sorrow is better than laughter, for by sadness of countenance the heart is made glad.

רָע badness, evil, bad quality; wilfulness; sadness.

7:4 לֵב חֲכָמִים בְּבַיִת אֵבֶל וְלֵב כְּסִילִים בְּבַיִת שִׂמְחָה

The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.

7:5 טוֹב לִשְׁמֹעַ גְּעֵרַת חָכָם מֵאִישׁ שִׁמְעֵ שִׁיר כְּסִילִים

It is better for a man to hear the rebuke of the wise than to hear the song of fools.

גְּעֵרָה a rebuke, reproof.

7:6 כִּי כְּקוֹל הַסִּירִים תַּחַת הַסִּיר כֵּן שִׂחַק הַכְּסִיל וְגַם־זֶה הַבֵּל

For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fools; this also is vanity.

סִיר (or סִירָה) pot; thorn, hook, brier.

7:7 כִּי הָעֶשֶׂק יְהוֹלִיל חָכָם וַיַּאֲבֵד אֶת־לֵב מִתְּנָה

Surely oppression makes the wise man foolish, and a bribe corrupts the mind.

הָלַל (Piel) praise; boast, make a boast; (Poel) make a fool of, make into a fool.

אַבַּד (Piel) destroy, kill, cause to perish, give up (as lost), exterminate; blot out, do away with, cause to vanish; (fig.) cause to stray, lose.

מִתְּנָה gift.

7:8 טוֹב אַחֲרֵית דְּבַר מִרְאשִׁיתוֹ טוֹב אֶרְךָ-רוּחַ מִגְּבוּהַ-רוּחַ

Better is the end of a thing than its beginning; and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

אַחֲרֵית after part, end; latter time; posterity; last, hindermost.

רְאשִׁית first, beginning; chief; choice part, best.

אֶרְךָ long; patient, slow to anger.

גְּבוּהַ high, lofty, tall; exalted in station; haughty, proud.

7:9 אַל-תִּבְהַל בְּרוּחְךָ לְכַעֵס כִּי כַעַס בְּחִיק כְּסִילִים יָנוּחַ

Be not quick to anger, for anger lodges in the bosom of fools.

חִיק (or חֹק, חוֹק) bosom, hollow, bottom, midst.

נָוַח rest, settle down and remain; repose, have rest, be quiet.

7:10 אַל-תֹּאמַר מָה הָיָה שְׁהַיָּמִים הָרִאשֹׁנִים הָיוּ טוֹבִים מֵאֵלֶּה כִּי לֹא

מִחֲכָמָה שָׁאַלְתָּ עַל-זֶה

Say not, "Why were the former days better than these?" For it is not from wisdom that you ask this.

7:11 טוֹבָה חֲכָמָה עִם-נַחֲלָה וְיִתֵּר לְרֹאֵי הַשָּׁמֶשׁ

Wisdom is good with an inheritance, an advantage to those who see the sun.

נַחֲלָה possession, property, inheritance, heritage; portion, share.

יִתֵּר (noun) superiority, advantage, excess; (adv.) excess, better; (conj.) besides, moreover, more.

7:12 כִּי בְצֵל הַחֲכָמָה בְּצֵל הַכֶּסֶף וְיִתְרוֹן דַּעַת הַחֲכָמָה תַּחֲיָה בְּעֵלְיָהּ

For the protection of wisdom is like the protection of money; and the advantage of knowledge is that wisdom preserves the life of him who has it.

צֵל shadow, shade.

בֵּעַל owner, husband, lord.

7:13 רְאֵה אֶת-מַעֲשֵׂה הָאֱלֹהִים כִּי מִי יוּכַל לְתַקֵּן אֶת אֲשֶׁר עָוְתוֹ

Consider the work of God; who can make straight what he has made crooked?

תָּקַן (Piel) make straight, put straight, arrange in order, set in order.

עָוַת (Piel) make crooked, falsify, pervert, subvert, bend.

7:14 בְּיוֹם טוֹבָה הָיָה בְּטוֹב וּבְיוֹם רָעָה רְאֵה גַם אֶת-זֶה לְעִמְתֹּזָה

עֲשֵׂה הָאֱלֹהִים עַל-דְּבַרְתָּ שְׁלֹא יִמָּצֵא הָאָדָם אַחֲרָיו מֵאוֹמָה

In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider; God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him.

לְעִמּוֹת Juxtaposition; close by, side by side with, alongside of, parallel with (cf. 5:16).
 דְּבָרָה cause, manner, reason.
 מִאֲמֹנָה anything.
 * Cf. 3:11; 11:8.

7:15 אֶת־הַכֹּל רָאִיתִי בַיּוֹם הַבְּלִי יֵשׁ צְדִיק אֲבָר בְּצַדִּיק וְיֵשׁ רָשָׁע מֵאֲרִיךְ בְּרַעְתּוֹ
 In my vain life I have seen everything; there is a righteous man who perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man who prolongs his life in his evil-doing.
 אָרַךְ (Hiphil) prolong (days); make long (tent cords); grow long, continue long.

7:16 אַל־תְּהִי צְדִיק הַרְבֵּה וְאַל־תִּתְחַכֵּם יוֹתֵר לְמָה תִּשׁוּבִים
 Be not righteous overmuch, and do not make yourself overwise; why should you destroy yourself?
 חָכַם (Hithpael) show oneself wise, deceive, show one's wisdom.
 שָׁמָם (Hithpolel) cause to be desolate; be appalled, be astounded; cause oneself desolation, cause oneself ruin.

7:17 אַל־תִּרְשָׁע הַרְבֵּה וְאַל־תְּהִי סָכָל לְמָה תָּמוּת בְּלֹא עֵתָךְ
 Be not wicked overmuch, neither be a fool; why should you die before your time?
 רָשָׁע be wicked, act wickedly.
 סָכָל fool.

7:18 טוֹב אֲשֶׁר תִּאָּחַז בָּזֶה וְגַם־מִזֶּה אַל־תִּנַּח אֶת־יָדְךָ כִּי־יִרָא אֱלֹהִים וַיֵּצֵא אֶת־כָּל־ם
 It is good that you should take hold of this, and from that withhold not your hand; for he who fears God shall come forth from them all.
 נָוַח (Hiph) cause to rest, give rest to, make quiet; lay or set down, deposit, let lie, place; let remain, leave, depart from; abandon; permit.

7:19 הַחֲכָמָה תָּעִז לְחָכָם מִעֲשָׂרָה שְׁלִיטִים אֲשֶׁר הֵיוּ בְּעִיר
 Wisdom gives strength to the wise man more than ten rulers that are in a city.
 עָזַז (Qal) be strong, prevail.
 שְׁלִיט having mastery, domineering; master, ruler.

7:20 כִּי אָדָם אֵין צְדִיק בְּאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר יַעֲשֶׂה־טוֹב וְלֹא יַחֲטָא
 Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.

7:21 גַּם לְכָל־הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר יִדְבְּרוּ אַל־תִּתֵּן לְבָבְךָ אֲשֶׁר לֹא־תִשְׁמַע אֶת־עַבְדְּךָ מִקְלָלְךָ
 Do not give heed to all the things that men say, lest you hear your servant cursing you;
 קָלַל (Piel) make despicable; curse.

7:22 כִּי גַם־פְּעָמַיִם רַבּוֹת יָרַע לְבָבְךָ אֲשֶׁר גַּם־אֵת [אֵתָהּ] קָלַלְתָּ אַחֲרַיִם
 your heart knows that many times you have yourself cursed others.
 פָּעַם (or פְּעָמָה) foot, hoof-beat, footstep; anvil; occurrence, time, stroke, beat; one time.

כָּל־זֶה נִסִּיתִי בַחֲכָמָה אֲמַרְתִּי אֲחַכְמָה וְהִיא רְחוֹקָה מִמֶּנִּי 7:23
All this I have tested by wisdom; I said, "I will be wise"; but it was far from me.

רְחוֹק מִה־שְׁהִיָּה וְעֵמֶק עֵמֶק מִי יִמְצְאוּנוּ 7:24
That which is, is far off, and deep, very deep; who can find it out?
עֵמֶק deep, mysterious, depths; unsearchable.

סִבּוֹתֵי אָנִי וְלִבִּי לְדַעַת וְלְתוֹר וּבִקְשׁ חֲכָמָה וְחֲשָׁבוֹן וְלִדְעַת 7:25
רָשַׁע כָּסֵל וְהַסְכָּלוֹת הוֹלִלּוֹת
I turned my mind to know and to search out and to seek wisdom and the sum of things, and to know the wickedness of folly and the foolishness which is madness.
תוֹר seek, search out, spy out, explore.
חֲשָׁבוֹן account, reasoning, reckoning.

וּמוֹצָא אָנִי מֵר מִמוֹת אֶת־הָאִשָּׁה אֲשֶׁר־הִיא מְצוֹרִים וְחֲרָמִים 7:26
לְבָה אֲסוּרִים יְדֵיהָ טוֹב לְפָנַי הָאֱלֹהִים יִמְלֹט מִמֶּנָּה וְחוֹטֵא יִלְכָד בָּהּ
And I found more bitter than death the woman whose heart is snares and nets, and whose hands are fetters; he who pleases God escapes her, but the sinner is taken by her.
מֵר (or מְרָה) bitter, bitterness, bitterly.
מְצוֹר (or מְצוֹרָה) siege-works, bulwark; hunting implement, net; fastness, stronghold.
חֲרָם (or חֲרָם) a thing devoted, thing dedicated, ban, devotion; a net, thing perforated.
אֲסוּר band, bond; house of bonds, prison.
מִלֵּט (Niphal) slip away; escape; be delivered.
לִכְד (Niphal) be captured; be caught.

רְאֵה זֶה מִצְאָתִי אָמְרָה קְהֵלֶת אַחַת לְאַחַת לְמִצְאָ חֲשָׁבוֹן 7:27
Behold, this is what I found, says the Preacher, adding one thing to another to find the sum,

אֲשֶׁר עוֹד־בִּקְשָׁה נַפְשִׁי וְלֹא מִצְאָתִי אָדָם אֶחָד מֵאַלְפֵי מִצְאָתִי 7:28
וְאִשָּׁה בְּכָל־אֵלֶּה לֹא מִצְאָתִי
which my mind has sought repeatedly, but I have not found. One man among a thousand I found, but a woman among all these I have not found.
* Cf. Job 33:23.

לְבַד רְאֵה־זֶה מִצְאָתִי אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה הָאֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָאָדָם יָשָׁר וְהֵמָּה 7:29
בִּקְשׁוּ חֲשָׁבוֹת רַבִּים
Behold, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many devices.
חֲשָׁבוֹן device, invention.

מִי כִהְחָכֵם וּמִי יוֹדֵעַ פֶּשֶׁר דְּבַר חֲכָמַת אָדָם תְּאִיר פָּנָיו וְעוֹ פָּנָיו יִשְׁנֵא 8:1
Who is like the wise man? And who knows the interpretation of a thing? A man's wisdom makes his face shine, and the hardness of his countenance is changed.
פֶּשֶׁר interpretation, solution.

אור (Hiphil) give light, shine; illumine, light up, cause to shine, shine; kindle, light.
 עז (or עוז) might, strength.
 שנה (Pual) be changed.

8:2 אֲנִי פִי־מֶלֶךְ שָׁמֹר וְעַל דְּבַרְתְּ שְׁבוּעַת אֱלֹהִים

NRS: Keep the king's command because of your sacred oath.

שְׁבוּעָה oath; curse.

8:3 אַל־תִּבְהַל מִפְּנֵי תֵלֶךְ אֶל־תַּעֲמֹד בְּדָבָר רָע כִּי כָל־אֲשֶׁר יַחְפִּץ יַעֲשֶׂה

NRS: Do not be terrified; go from his presence, do not delay when the matter is unpleasant, for he does whatever he pleases.

8:4 בְּאֲשֶׁר דְּבַר־מֶלֶךְ שְׁלֹטוֹן וּמִי יֹאמַר־לוֹ מַה־תַּעֲשֶׂה

For the word of the king is supreme, and who may say to him, "What are you doing?"

בְּאֲשֶׁר because (cf. 2:16 בַּשָּׁ ; 4:9 אֲשֶׁר ; 7:2; Gen 6:3).

שְׁלֹטוֹן mastery.

8:5 שׁוֹמֵר מִצְוָה לֹא יֵרַע דְּבַר רָע וְעַתּוֹת וּמִשְׁפָּט יֵרַע לֵב חָכָם

He who obeys a command will meet no harm, and the mind of a wise man will know the time and way.

מִשְׁפָּט judgment, justice, ordinance.

8:6 כִּי לְכָל־חֶפֶץ יֵשׁ עֵת וּמִשְׁפָּט כִּי־רַעַת הָאָדָם רַבָּה עָלָיו

For every matter has its time and way, although man's trouble lies heavy upon him.

8:7 כִּי־אֵינְנוּ יוֹדְעֵי מַה־שִּׁיְהִיָּה כִּי כֹּאֲשֶׁר יִהְיֶה מִי יִגִּיד לוֹ

For he does not know what is to be, for who can tell him how it will be?

8:8 אֵין אָדָם שְׁלִיט בְּרוּחַ לְכָל־אֶת־הָרוּחַ וְאֵין שְׁלֹטוֹן בְּיוֹם הַמּוֹת

וְאֵין מוֹשְׁלַחַת בַּמְּלַחְמָה וְלֹא־יִמְלֹט רָשָׁע אֶת־בְּעָלָיו

No man has power to retain the spirit, or authority over the day of death; there is no discharge from war, nor will wickedness deliver those who are given to it.

כָּל־א restrict, restrain, withhold, shut up, keep back, refrain, forbid.

מוֹשְׁלַחַת discharge, sending, sending away, deputation.

8:9 אֶת־כָּל־זֶה רָאִיתִי וְנָתוֹן אֶת־לְבִי לְכָל־מַעֲשֵׂה אֲשֶׁר נַעֲשָׂה תַחַת

הַשָּׁמַשׁ עֵת אֲשֶׁר שָׁלַט הָאָדָם בְּאָדָם לְרַע לוֹ

All this I observed while applying my mind to all that is done under the sun, while man lords it over man to his hurt.

8:10 וּבִכְן רָאִיתִי רָשָׁעִים קְבָרִים וּבָאוּ וּמִמְקוֹם קְדוֹשׁ יִהְלְכוּ

וַיִּשְׁתַּכְּחוּ בְּעִיר אֲשֶׁר כָּן־עָשׂוּ גַם־זֶה הַבָּל

RSV: Then I saw the wicked buried; they used to go in and out of the holy place, and were praised in the city where they had done such things. This also is vanity. (=LXX)

NKJ: Then I saw the wicked buried, who had come and gone from the place of holiness, and

they were forgotten in the city where they had so done. This also *is* vanity.

קָבַר (Pual) be buried.

הָלַךְ (Piel) walk.

שָׁכַח (or שָׁכַחַ) (Hithpael) be forgotten.

8:11 אֲשֶׁר אֵין־נַעֲשָׂה פְתָגָם מַעֲשֵׂה הַרְעָה מְהֵרָה עַל־כֵּן מָלֵא לֵב
בְּנֵי־הָאָדָם בָּהֶם לַעֲשׂוֹת רָע

Because sentence against an evil deed is not executed speedily, the heart of the sons of men is fully set to do evil.

פְתָגָם edict, decree.

8:12 אֲשֶׁר חָטָא עָשָׂה רָע מְאֹד וּמֵאֲרִיךְ לוֹ כִּי גַם־יֹרֵעַ אָנִי אֲשֶׁר
יְהִי־טוֹב לִירְאֵי הָאֱלֹהִים אֲשֶׁר יִירָאוּ מִלְּפָנָיו

Though a sinner does evil a hundred times and prolongs his life, yet I know that it will be well with those who fear God, because they fear before him;

8:13 וְטוֹב לֹא־יְהִיָּה לְרָשָׁע וְלֹא־יֵאָרֶךְ יָמָיו כַּצֶּל אֲשֶׁר אֵין־נֹרֵא מִלְּפָנָיו אֱלֹהִים

but it will not be well with the wicked, neither will he prolong his days like a shadow, because he does not fear before God.

8:14 יִשְׁהַבֵּל אֲשֶׁר נַעֲשָׂה עַל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר יֵשׁ צַדִּיקִים אֲשֶׁר מִגִּיעַ אֲלֵהֶם כַּמַּעֲשֵׂה
הַרְשָׁעִים וַיֵּשׁ רָשָׁעִים שָׁמֹנֶעַ אֲלֵהֶם כַּמַּעֲשֵׂה הַצַּדִּיקִים אֲמַרְתִּי שְׁגִמָּה הֵבֵל

There is a vanity which takes place on earth, that there are righteous men to whom it happens according to the deeds of the wicked, and there are wicked men to whom it happens according to the deeds of the righteous. I said that this also is vanity.

נָגַע (Hiphil) cause to touch, reach, approach, arrive, befall (of fate).

8:15 וְשִׁבַּחְתִּי אָנִי אֶת־הַשְּׂמֹחַה אֲשֶׁר אֵין־טוֹב לְאָדָם תַּחַת הַשָּׁמַשׁ כִּי אִם־לֶאֱכֹל
וְלִשְׂתוֹת וְלִשְׂמוֹחַ וְהוּא יִלְוֶנוּ בְעִמְלֹו יָמָיו תִּיּוֹ אֲשֶׁר־נָתַן־לוֹ הָאֱלֹהִים תַּחַת הַשָּׁמַשׁ

And I commend enjoyment, for man has no good thing under the sun but to eat and drink, and enjoy himself, for this will go with him in his toil through the days of life which God gives him under the sun.

שָׁבַח (Piel) to soothe, still.

לָוָה join, be joined, attend.

8:16 כַּאֲשֶׁר נָתַתִּי אֶת־לְבִי לְדַעַת חֲכָמָה וְלִרְאוֹת אֶת־הָעֲנָן אֲשֶׁר
נַעֲשָׂה עַל־הָאָרֶץ כִּי גַם בַּיּוֹם וּבַלַּיְלָה שָׁנָה בְּעֵינָיו אֵין־נֹרֵא רָאָה

When I applied my mind to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done on earth, how neither day nor night one's eyes see sleep;

8:17 וּרְאִיתִי אֶת־כָּל־מַעֲשֵׂה הָאֱלֹהִים כִּי לֹא יוּכַל הָאָדָם לְמַצּוֹא

אֶת־הַמַּעֲשֵׂה אֲשֶׁר נַעֲשָׂה תַּחַת־הַשָּׁמַשׁ בְּשֵׁל אֲשֶׁר יַעֲמַל הָאָדָם לְבַקֵּשׁ

וְלֹא יִמָּצֵא וְגַם אִם־יֹאמֶר הַחֲכָם לְדַעַת לֹא יוּכַל לְמַצּוֹא

then I saw all the work of God, that man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun. However much man may toil in seeking, he will not find it out; even though a wise man claims

to know, he cannot find it out.

כִּי אֶת־כָּל־זֶה נָתַתִּי אֶל־לְבִי וְלָבוּר אֶת־כָּל־זֶה אֲשֶׁר הַצְדִּיקִים וְהַחֲכָמִים 9:1
וְעַבְדֵיהֶם בְּיַד הָאֱלֹהִים גַּם־אֲהַבָּה גַם־שָׂנְאָה אֵין יוֹדַע הָאָדָם הַכֹּל לִפְנֵיהֶם

NRS: All this I laid to heart, examining it all, how the righteous and the wise and their deeds are in the hand of God; whether it is love or hate one does not know. Everything that confronts them

בוּר make clear, clear up, explain, prove; bore into; declare(?).

הַכֹּל כַּאֲשֶׁר לְכָל מְקָרָה אֶחָד לְצַדִּיק וְלִרְשָׁע לְטוֹב וְלִרְעָה 9:2
וְלִטְמָא וְלִזְבַּח וְלִאֲשֶׁר אֵינְנוּ זֹבַח כְּטוֹב כַּחֲטָא הַנִּשְׁבַּע כַּאֲשֶׁר שְׁבוּעָה יָרָא

NRS: is vanity, since the same fate comes to all, to the righteous and the wicked, to the good and the evil, to the clean and the unclean, to those who sacrifice and those who do not sacrifice. As are the good, so are the sinners; those who swear are like those who shun an oath.

מְקָרָה unforeseen meeting or event, accident, happening, chance, fortune, fate.

זֶה רָע בְּכָל אֲשֶׁר־נַעֲשָׂה תַּחַת הַשָּׁמַשׁ כִּי־מְקָרָה אֶחָד לְכָל וְגַם 9:3
לֵב בְּנֵי־הָאָדָם מְלֹא־רָע וְהוֹלִלוֹת בְּלִבָּם בְּחַיֵּיהֶם וְאַחֲרָיו אֶל־הַמָּתִים

This is an evil in all that is done under the sun, that one fate comes to all; also the hearts of men are full of evil, and madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead.

כִּי־מִי אֲשֶׁר יִבְחַר [יַחְבֵּר] אֶל כָּל־חַיִּים יֵשׁ בְּטַחֲוֹן 9:4
כִּי־לְכָל־בַּיִת חַי הוּא טוֹב מִן־הָאֲרִיָּה הַמֵּת

But he who is joined with all the living has hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion.

בָּחַר (Pual) be chosen, selected.

חָבַר (Pual) be allied with, be united; be joined together.

כָּלֵב dog.

כִּי חַיִּים יוֹדְעִים שְׂיָמְתוּ וְהַמָּתִים אֵינָם יוֹדְעִים מְאוּמָה וְאֵין־עוֹד 9:5
לָהֶם שְׂכָר כִּי נִשְׁכַּח זְכָרָם

For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward; but the memory of them is lost.

שְׂכָר hire, wages; reward, pay; fare, fee, passage-money.

זָכַר (or זִכָּר) memorial, remembrance; memory.

גַּם אֲהַבָּתָם גַּם־שָׂנְאָתָם גַּם־קִנְיָתָם כְּבָר אֲבָרָה וְחֶלֶק אֵין־לָהֶם 9:6
עוֹד לְעוֹלָם בְּכָל אֲשֶׁר־נַעֲשָׂה תַּחַת הַשָּׁמַשׁ

Their love and their hate and their envy have already perished, and they have no more for ever any share in all that is done under the sun.

לֶךְ אֱכַל בְּשִׂמְחָה לַחֲמֶיךָ וּשְׂתֵה בְּלֵב־טוֹב יֵינֶיךָ כִּי כָבַר רָצָה 9:7
הָאֱלֹהִים אֶת־מַעֲשֶׂיךָ

Go, eat your bread with enjoyment, and drink your wine with a merry heart; for God has already approved what you do.

רצה be pleased with, be favourable to, accept favourably.

9:8 בְּכָל־עֵת יִהְיוּ בְּגָדֶיךָ לְבָנִים וְשֶׁמֶן עַל־רֹאשְׁךָ אַל־יִחָסֵר

Let your garments be always white; let not oil be lacking on your head.

9:9 רְאֵה חַיִּים עִם־אִשָּׁה אֲשֶׁר־אַהַבְתָּ כָּל־יְמֵי חַיֵּי הַבְּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר נָתַן־לְךָ תַּחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ

כָּל יְמֵי הַבְּלֶךְ כִּי הוּא חֶלְקְךָ בַּחַיִּים וּבַעֲמֹלְךָ אֲשֶׁר־אַתָּה עֹמֵל תַּחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ

Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life which he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun.

9:10 כָּל אֲשֶׁר תִּמְצָא יָדְךָ לַעֲשׂוֹת בְּכַחַךְ עֲשֵׂה כִּי אֵין מַעֲשֵׂה וְחִשְׁבוֹן

וְדַעַת וְחִכְמָה בְּשֵׂאוֹל אֲשֶׁר אַתָּה הַלֵּךְ שָׁמָּה

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.

שְׂאוֹל (or שָׂאל) sheol, underworld, grave, hell, pit.

9:11 שָׁבַתִּי וְרָאִיתִי תַּחַת־הַשָּׁמֶשׁ כִּי לֹא לַקְּלַיִם הַמְרוּץ וְלֹא לַגְּבוּרִים

הַמְלַחֲמָה וְגַם לֹא לַחֲכָמִים לֶחֶם וְגַם לֹא לַנְּבֹנִים עֵשֶׂר

וְגַם לֹא לַיָּדְעִים חֵן כִּי־עַת וּפְגַעַת יִקְרָה אֶת־כֻּלָּם

Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favor to the men of skill; but time and chance happen to them all.

קל swift, light, fleet.

מְרוּץ running, race, course.

בֵּין (Niphal) be discerning, intelligent, discreet, have understanding.

פָּגַע occurrence, happening, chance.

9:12 כִּי גַם לֹא־יָדַע הָאָדָם אֶת־עֵתוֹ כִּדְגִים שֶׁנֶּאֱחָזִים בַּמְצוֹדָה רָעָה וְכַצְּפָרִים

הָאֲחֻזוֹת בַּפֶּח כִּהֵם יוֹקְשִׁים בְּנֵי הָאָדָם לְעֵת רָעָה כִּשְׂתַּפּוּל עֲלֵיהֶם פְּתָאִם

For man does not know his time. Like fish which are taken in an evil net, and like birds which are caught in a snare, so the sons of men are snared at an evil time, when it suddenly falls upon them.

דָּג (or דָּאג) fish.

אָחַז (Qal) grasp, take hold of; (Niphal) be caught, grasped, be settled.

מְצוֹד (or מְצוֹדָה) siege-works, bulwark; hunting implement, net; fastness, stronghold.

פֶּח bird trap, trap, snare.

יִקַּשׁ lure, entice, snare, lay a snare or lure, set a trap; (Pual) be entrapped.

פְּתָאוֹם (or פְּתָאִם) suddenly, surprisingly; suddenness.

9:13 גַּם־זֶה רָאִיתִי חִכְמָה תַּחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ וַיִּגְדֹּלָה הִיא אֵלַי

I have also seen this example of wisdom under the sun, and it seemed great to me.

9:14 עִיר קִטְנָה וְאֲנָשִׁים בָּהּ מַעֲט וּבְאֵלֶיהָ מְלֶךְ גְּדוֹל וְסַבֵּב אֶתָּה

וּבְנָה עָלֶיהָ מְצוּדִים גְּדֹלִים

There was a little city with few men in it; and a great king came against it and besieged it, building great siegeworks against it.

9:15 וּמָצָא בָּהּ אִישׁ מְסִפֵּן חָכָם וּמִלֹּט־הוּא אֶת־הָעִיר בְּחָכְמָתוֹ וְאָדָם
 לֹא זָכַר אֶת־הָאִישׁ הַמְּסִפֵּן הַהוּא

But there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city. Yet no one remembered that poor man.

מְסִפֵּן poor, poor man.

מִלֹּט (Piel) lay, let slip out (of eggs); let escape; deliver, save (life).

9:16 וְאָמַרְתִּי אָנִי טוֹבָה חָכְמָה מִגְּבוּרָה וְחָכְמַת הַמְּסִפֵּן בְּזוּיָהּ וּדְבָרָיו אֵינָם נִשְׁמָעִים

But I say that wisdom is better than might, though the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heeded.

בְּזָה despise, hold in contempt, disdain.

9:17 דְּבָרֵי חֲכָמִים בְּנִחָת נִשְׁמָעִים מִזְעָקַת מוֹשֵׁל בְּכִסְיָלִים

The words of the wise heard in quiet are better than the shouting of a ruler among fools.

זַעַק (or זְעָקָה) cry, outcry, clamour.

9:18 טוֹבָה חָכְמָה מִכְּלֵי קָרֶב וְחוּטָא אַחַד יֵאַבֵּד טוֹבָה הַרְבֵּה

Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good.

קָרֶב battle, war.

10:1 זְבוּבֵי מוֹת יִבְאִישׁ יִבְיַע שֶׁמֶן רוֹקֵחַ יִקַּר מִחֲכָמָה מִכְּבוֹד סְכָלוֹת מְעַט

Dead flies make the perfumer's ointment give off an evil odor; so a little folly outweighs wisdom and honor.

זְבוּב fly.

בִּאֵשׁ (Hiphil) stink, emit a stinking odour ; cause to stink.

נָבַע flow, pour out, pour, gush forth, spring, bubble up, ferment; (Hiphil) pour out, emit, cause to bubble, belch forth; ferment.

שֶׁמֶן fat, fatness; oil, olive oil.

רִקַּח mix, compound; compounder, mixer, perfumer.

10:2 לֵב חָכָם לְיְמִינוֹ וְלֵב כָּסִיל לְשְׂמָאלוֹ

A wise man's heart inclines him toward the right, but a fool's heart toward the left.

10:3 וְגַם־בְּדַרְךָ כְּשֶׁהִסְכָּל [כְּשֶׁסָּכַל] הִלֵּךְ לְבוֹ חָסֵר וְאָמַר לְכָל סָכָל הוּא

Even when the fool walks on the road, he lacks sense, and he says to every one that he is a fool.

10:4 אִם־רוּחַ תְּמוֹשֵׁל תַּעֲלֶה עָלֶיךָ מִקוֹמְךָ אַל־תִּנַּח כִּי מִרְפָּא יִנִּית חַטָּאִים גְּדוֹלִים

If the anger of the ruler rises against you, do not leave your place, for deference will make amends for great offenses.

מִרְפָּא health, healing, cure; profit, sound (of mind).

10:5 יֵשׁ רָעָה רָאִיתִי תַּחַת הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ כַּשֵּׁגָגָה שִׁיֵּצֵא מִלְּפָנַי הַשְּׁלֵיט

There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, as it were an error proceeding from the ruler:

שֵׁגָגָה sin, sin of error or inadvertence, inadvertent sin.

שְׁלֵיט having mastery, domineering; master, ruler.

10:6 נָתַן הַסֶּכֶל בְּמָרוֹמִים רַבִּים וְעַשִּׁירִים בְּשִׁפְלֵי יִשְׁבּוּ

folly is set in many high places, and the rich sit in a low place.

מָרוֹם height, elevation, elevated place.

שִׁפְלֵי lowliness, low estate or condition.

10:7 רָאִיתִי עֲבָדִים עַל־סוּסִים וְשָׂרִים הֹלְכִים כַּעֲבָדִים עַל־הָאָרֶץ

I have seen slaves on horses, and princes walking on foot like slaves.

10:8 חָפַר גּוֹמֵץ בּוֹ יִפּוֹל וּפָרַץ גֶּדֶר יִשְׁכְּנוּ נָחָשׁ

He who digs a pit will fall into it; and a serpent will bite him who breaks through a wall.

חָפַר dig, search for.

גּוֹמֵץ pit.

פָּרַץ break through or down or over, burst, breach.

גֶּדֶר wall, fence.

נָשָׁךְ (Qal) bite.

נָחָשׁ serpent, snake.

10:9 מִסִּיעַ אֲבָנִים יַעֲצֵב בָּהֶם בּוֹקֵעַ עֵצִים יִסְכֵּן בָּם

He who quarries stones is hurt by them; and he who splits logs is endangered by them.

נָסַע pull out, pull up, set out, journey, remove, set forward, depart; (Hiphil) cause to set out, lead out, cause to spring up; remove, quarry.

עָצַב (Niphal) be in pain, be pained, be grieved.

בָּקַע split, cleave, break open, divide, break through, rip up, break up, tear.

סָכַן (nifal impf 3 m sg) be endangered.

10:10 אִם־קָהָה תִּבְרֹזַל וְהוּא לֹא־פָנִים קִלְקַל וְחִילִים יִגְבֵּר וַיִּתְרוֹן הַכְּשִׁיר חֲכָמָה

If the iron is blunt, and one does not whet the edge, he must put forth more strength; but wisdom helps one to succeed.

קָהָה (Piel) be blunt, be dull.

קִלְקַל (Pilpel) shake; whet.

יִגְבֵּר (Piel) make strong, strengthen.

כְּשִׁיר (Hiphil) give success.

10:11 אִם־יִשָּׁךְ הַנָּחָשׁ בְּלֹא־לְחַשׁ וְאִין יִתְרוֹן לְבַעַל הַלְּשׁוֹן

If the serpent bites before it is charmed, there is no advantage in a charmer.

לְחַשׁ whispering, charming, serpent-charming; charms, amulets (worn by women).

10:12 דְּבַרֵי פִי־חָכָם חֵן וְשִׁפְתוֹת כֹּסִיל תִּבְלָעֵנּוּ

The words of a wise man's mouth win him favor, but the lips of a fool consume him.

בלע (Piel) swallow; swallow up, engulf; squandering (fig.).

10:13 תְּחִלַּת דְּבַרֵי־פִיהוּ סְכָלוֹת וְאַחֲרֵית פִּיהוּ הוֹלָלוֹת רָעָה

The beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness, and the end of his talk is wicked madness.

תְּחִלָּה beginning, first, the first time.

10:14 וְהִסְכֵּל יִרְבֶּה דְּבָרִים לֹא־יֵדַע הָאָדָם מִה־שִׁיחֵיהָ וְאֲשֶׁר יִהְיֶה מֵאַחֲרָיו מִי יִגִּיד לוֹ

A fool multiplies words, though no man knows what is to be, and who can tell him what will be after him?

10:15 עֵמֶל הַכֹּסִילִים תִּיגָעֵנּוּ אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יֵדַע לָלֶכֶת אֶל־עִיר

The toil of a fool wearies him, so that he does not know the way to the city.

יָגַע (Piel) weary, make weary, cause to go toilsomely.

10:16 אֵי־לָךְ אֶרֶץ שְׂמֹלֶכֶךָ נָעַר וְשָׂרֵיךָ בְּבֹקֶר יֹאכְלוּ

Woe to you, O land, when your king is a child, and your princes feast in the morning!

אֵי woe, alas! (cf. 4:10 אֵילוֹ "woe to him").

10:17 אֲשֶׁרֶיךָ אֶרֶץ שְׂמֹלֶכֶךָ בְּנֵי־חֹרִים וְשָׂרֵיךָ בְּעֵת יֹאכְלוּ בְּגִבּוֹרָה וְלֹא בְּשֵׂתִי

Happy are you, O land, when your king is the son of free men, and your princes feast at the proper time, for strength, and not for drunkenness!

אֲשֶׁר happiness, blessedness; (often used as interjection) blessed are.

חֹרֵם (or חֹר) a noble, freeborn one.

גִּבּוֹרָה strength, might, valour, bravery.

שֵׂתִי a drinking, drinking bout.

10:18 בְּעֲצֻלָּתַיִם יִמָּךְ הַמְּקָרָה וּבְשִׁפְלוֹת יָדַיִם יִדְלַף הַבַּיִת

Through sloth the roof sinks in, and through indolence the house leaks.

עֲצָלָה sluggishness, laziness.

מָכָךְ be low, be humiliated; (Niphal) sink.

מְקָרָה beam work.

שִׁפְלוֹת sinking, idleness, inactivity.

דָּלַף drop, drip; leak; weep (of tear).

10:19 לְשִׂחּוֹק עֲשִׂים לֶחֶם וְיַיִן יְשִׂמַח חַיִּים וְהַכֶּסֶף יַעֲנֶה אֶת־הַכֹּל

Bread is made for laughter, and wine gladdens life, and money answers everything.

10:20 גַּם בְּמַדְעָךָ מִלֶּךְ אֶל־תִּקְלַל וּבַחֲדָרֶי מִשְׂכָּבְךָ אֶל־תִּקְלַל עֲשִׂיר

כִּי עוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם יוֹלִיךְ אֶת־הַקּוֹל וּבַעַל הַכְּנָפַיִם [כְּנָפַיִם] יִגִּיד דְּבָר

Even in your thought, do not curse the king, nor in your bedchamber curse the rich; for a bird

of the air will carry your voice, or some winged creature tell the matter.

מִדַּע (or מִדְּע) knowledge; mind, thought, place of knowledge.

קָלַל (Piel) make despicable; curse.

11:1 שֶׁלַח לַחֲמֶקְךָ עַל־פְּנֵי הַמָּוִם כִּי־בָרַב הַיָּמִים תִּמְצָאֵנּוּ

Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days.

11:2 תֵּן־חֶלֶק לְשִׁבְעָה וְגַם לְשְׁמוֹנָה כִּי לֹא תֵדַע מַה־יְהִיָּה רָעָה עַל־הָאָרֶץ

Give a portion to seven, or even to eight, for you know not what evil may happen on earth.

11:3 אִם־יִמְלְאוּ הָעָבִים גֶּשֶׁם עַל־הָאָרֶץ יִרְיִקוּ וְאִם־יִפּוּל עֵץ בַּהָרוֹם

וְאִם בְּצַפּוֹן מְקוֹם שִׁיפּוּל הָעֵץ שָׁם יִהְיֶה

If the clouds are full of rain, they empty themselves on the earth; and if a tree falls to the south or to the north, in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie.

רוּק (Hiphil) empty, keep empty or hungry; pour out or down; empty out.

הָוָה (or הוּהָ) (qal impf 3 m sg apoc) fall; be, become, exist, happen.

11:4 שֹׁמֵר רוּחַ לֹא יִזְרַע וְרֹאֵה בְּעָבִים לֹא יִקְצֹר

He who observes the wind will not sow; and he who regards the clouds will not reap.

11:5 כִּאֲשֶׁר אֵינְךָ יוֹדֵעַ מַה־הָרֶךְ הַרוּחַ כִּעֲצָמִים בְּבֶטֶן הַמְּלֵאָה כִּכָּה

לֹא תֵדַע אֶת־מַעֲשֵׂה הָאֱלֹהִים אֲשֶׁר יַעֲשֶׂה אֶת־הַכֹּל

As you do not know how the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know the work of God who makes everything.

11:6 בַּבֹּקֶר זָרַע אֶת־זֵרְעֶךָ וְלָעֶרֶב וְלִתְנַח יָדְךָ כִּי אֵינְךָ יוֹדֵעַ אִי זֶה

יִכָּשֵׁר הַזֶּה אוֹזֶה וְאִם־שְׁנֵיהֶם כָּאֶחָד טוֹבִים

In the morning sow your seed, and at evening withhold not your hand; for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good.

11:7 וּמִתּוֹק הָאוֹר וְטוֹב לְעֵינַיִם לִרְאוֹת אֶת־הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ

Light is sweet, and it is pleasant for the eyes to behold the sun.

11:8 כִּי אִם־שָׁנִים תְּרַבֶּה יַחְיֶה הָאָדָם בְּכֹלָם יִשְׂמַח וַיִּזְכֹּר אֶת־יָמָיו

הַחֹשֶׁךְ כִּי־תִרְבֶּה יִהְיוּ כָל־שָׁבָא הָבָל

For if a man lives many years, let him rejoice in them all; but let him remember that the days of darkness will be many. All that comes is vanity.

11:9 שִׂמַּח בַּחֹר בְּיַלְדוּתְךָ וּיְטִיבֶךָ לְבָבְךָ בַּיָּמִים בַּחֲרוּתְךָ וְהַלֵּךְ

בְּדַרְכֵי לְבָבְךָ וּבְמַרְאֵי עֵינֶיךָ וְדַע כִּי עַל־כָּל־אֵלֶּה יְבִיאֲךָ הָאֱלֹהִים בַּמִּשְׁפָּט

Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment.

יָטַב (Hiphil) make glad, rejoice; do good to, deal well with; do well, do thoroughly.

בְּחָרוּת (or בַּחֲרוּת) youth.

מְרֵאָה sight, appearance, vision, spectacle.

11:10 וְהָסַר כַּעַס מִלְבָּבְךָ וְהֵעֵבֵר רָעָה מִבְּשָׂרְךָ כִּי־תִילָדוֹת וְהַשְׁחָרוֹת הֶבֶל

Remove vexation from your mind, and put away pain from your body; for youth and the dawn of life are vanity.

שְׁחָרוֹת blackness (of hair indicating youth).

12:1 וְזָכַר אֶת־בּוֹרְאֶיךָ בְּיָמֶיךָ בְּחֹרְתֶיךָ עַד אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יָבֹאוּ יָמֵי הָרָעָה

Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come, and the years draw nigh, when you will say, "I have no pleasure in them";

12:2 עַד אֲשֶׁר לֹא־תִחְשַׁךְ הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ וְהָאוֹר וְהַיָּרֵחַ וְהַכּוֹכָבִים וְשָׁבוּ הָעָבִים אַחַר הַגֶּשֶׁם

before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain;

12:3 בַּיּוֹם שִׁיזְעוּ שְׁמָרֵי הַבַּיִת וְהִתְעֹתוּ אַנְשֵׁי הַחַיִל וּבָטְלוּ הַטַּחְנוֹת

in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look through the windows are dimmed,

זִוַּע tremble, quiver, quake, be in terror.

עָוָה be bent, be crooked, bend, make crooked, pervert; (Hithpael) bend oneself.

בָּטַל cease.

טָחַן grind, crush.

מָעַט (Piel) become few.

אַרְבֵּה lattice, window, sluice.

12:4 וְסָגְרוּ דְלָתַיִם בַּשּׁוּק בְּשֹׁפֵל קוֹל הַטַּחְנָה וְיָקוּם לְקוֹל הַצִּפּוֹר וַיִּשְׁחָו כָּל־בָּנוֹת הַשִּׁיר

and the doors on the street are shut; when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the voice of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low;

שׁוּק street.

שָׁפַל be or become low, sink, be humbled, be abased.

טַחְנָה mill.

12:5 גַּם מִגִּבְהַת יִרְאוּ וְחִתְחִתִּים בְּדַרְךָ וַיִּנְאֵץ הַשֶּׁקֶד וַיִּסְתַּבֵּל הַחֲנֹב

they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along and desire fails; because man goes to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets;

חִתְחִתִּת terror.

נִיץ fly, flee; (Hiphil) bloom, blossom.

שֶׁקֶד almond tree, almonds.

סָבַל bear, bear a load; (Hithpael) make oneself a burden, drag oneself along.

חַגַב locust, grasshopper.

פָּרַר break, frustrate; (Hiphil) break, violate; frustrate, make ineffectual.

אַבְיוֹנָה caper-berry - of stimulating desire.

סָפַד wail, lament, mourn.

12:6 עַד אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יִרְחַק [וְיִרְחַק] חֶבֶל הַכֶּסֶף וְתֵרֵץ גִּלְתַּת הַזָּהָב
וְתִשָּׁבֵר פֶּדַע עַל־הַמַּבּוּעַ וְנִרְץ הַגִּלְגָּל אֶל־הַבּוֹר

before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern,

רָחַק be or become far, be or become distant, be removed, go far away.

רָחַק (Niphal) be snapped, be broken.

רָצַץ crush, get crushed, be crushed, oppress; (Niphal) be crushed, be broken.

גִּלְגָּל bowl, spring, basin.

מַבּוּעַ spring of water.

גִּלְגָּל wheel, whirl, whirlwind, whirling.

12:7 וַיָּשָׁב הָעָפָר עַל־הָאָרֶץ כַּשְּׁהָיָה וְהָרוּחַ תָּשׁוּב אֶל־הָאֱלֹהִים אֲשֶׁר נָתַנָּהּ

and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

12:8 הַבַּל הַבָּלִים אָמַר הַקּוֹהֵלֶת הַכֹּל הַבָּל

Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; all is vanity.

12:9 וַיִּתֵּר שֶׁהָיָה קִהְלֵת חָכָם עוֹד לְמוֹד־דַּעַת אֶת־הָעָם וְאִזּוֹן וְחִקָּר תִּקְּן מִשְׁלֵיִם הַרְבֵּה

Besides being wise, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge, weighing and studying and arranging proverbs with great care.

לָמַד learn. teach, exercise in; (Piel) teach.

אָזַן hear, listen; (piel) weigh.

חִקָּר (Piel) search out, seek out.

תִּקְּן (Piel) make straight, put straight, arrange in order, set in order.

12:10 בִּקְשׁ קִהְלֵת לְמוֹצֵא דְבָרֵי־חַפְצִין וְכָתוּב יִשָּׁר דְּבָרֵי אֱמֶת

The Preacher sought to find pleasing words, and uprightly he wrote words of truth.

12:11 דְּבָרֵי חֲכָמִים כַּדְּרָבִנוֹת וְכַמִּשְׁמֹרוֹת נְטוּעִים בְּעֲלֵי אֲסָפוֹת נִתְּנוּ מִרְעָה אֶחָד

The sayings of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings which are given by one Shepherd.

דְּרָבִין (or דְּרָבָן) goad.

מִשְׁמֹר nail.

אֲסָפָה collection.

12:12 וַיִּתֵּר מִהֶמָּה בְּנֵי הַזֵּהָר עֲשׂוֹת סְפָרִים הַרְבֵּה אֵין קֵץ וְלֹהֵג הַרְבֵּה יִגְעַת בְּשָׂר

My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

לִהְגֹּל study, studying, devotion to study.

יְגִיעָה a wearing, a tiring.

סוֹף דְּבַר הַכֹּל נִשְׁמַע אֶת־הָאֱלֹהִים יִרָא וְאֶת־מִצְוֹתָיו שְׁמֹר כִּי־זֶה כָּל־הָאָדָם 12:13

The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man.

כִּי אֶת־כָּל־מַעֲשֵׂה הָאֱלֹהִים יָבֵא בְּמוֹשֶׁפֶט עַל כָּל־נִעְלָם אִם־טוֹב וְאִם־רָע 12:14

For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

עֲלָם (Niphal) be concealed, dissembler (participle).

<Words Frequently Mentioned>

קְהָלָת preacher, public speaker, speaker in an assembly (7 times).

1:1,2,12; 7:27; 12:8,9,10.

הַבָּל (or הֶבֶל) vanity (38 times).

1:2<5x>,14; 2:1,11,15,17,19,21,23,26; 3:19; 4:4,7,8,16; 5:7[6],10[9]; 6:2,4,9,11,12; 7:6,15; 8:10,14<2x>; 9:9<2x>; 11:8,10; 12:8<3x>

עִמָּל trouble; mischief; toil, labour. (noun: 22 times).

1:3; 2:10<2x>,11,18,19,20,21,22,24; 3:13; 4:4,6,8,9; 5:15[14],18[17],19[18]; 6:7; 8:15; 9:9; 10:15.

עָמַל labour, toil (verb: 13 times).

1:3; 2:11, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22; 3:9; 4:8; 5:16[15], 18[17]; 8:17; 9:9).

שְׂמֹשׁ (35 times).

1:3,5<2x>,9,14; 2:11,17,18,19,20,22; 3:16; 4:1,3,7,15; 5:13[12],18[17]; 6:1,5,12; 7:11; 8:9,15<2x>,17; 9:3,6,9<2x>,11,13; 10:5; 11:7; 12:2).

תַּחַת הַשְּׂמֹשׁ (29 times, except 1:5<2x>; 6:5; 7:11; 11:7; 12:2).

* תַּחַת הַשָּׁמַיִם (1:13; 2:3; 3:1).

רוּחַ (24 times).

1:6<2x>,14,17; 2:11,17,26; 3:19,21<2x>; 4:4,6,16; 5:16[15]; 6:9; 7:8<2x>,9; 8:8<2x>; 10:4; 11:4,5; 12:7.

רָאָה see, look at (verb: 46 times).

1:8,10,14,16; 2:1,3,12,13,24<2x>; 3:13,16,18,22<2x>; 4:1,3,4,7,15; 5:8,11,13,18<2x>; 6:1,5,6; 7:11,13,15,27,29; 8:9,10,16<2x>,17; 9:9,11,13; 10:5,7; 11:4,7; 12:3)

עָשָׂה (verb: 43 times).

1:9<2x>,13,14; 2:2,3,5,6,8,11<2x>,12,17; 3:9,11<2x>,12,14<2x>; 4:1,3; 5:1[4:17]; 6:12; 7:14, 20, 29; 8:3,4,9,10, 11<2x>,12,14,16,17; 9:3,6,10<2x>; 10:19; 11:5; 12:12).

מַעֲשֵׂה deed, work, thing done (noun: 20 times).

1:14; 2:4,11,17; 3:11,17,22; 4:3,4; 5:5[4]; 7:13; 8:9,11,14<2x>,17<2x>; 9:10; 11:5; 12:14).

לֵב inner man, mind, will, heart (41 times).

1:13,16<2x>,17; 2:1,3<2x>,10<2x>,15<2x>, 20,22,23; 3:11,17,18; 5:2[1],20[19];
7:2,3,4<2x>,7,21,22,25,26; 8:5,9,11,16; 9:1,3<2x>,7; 10:2<2x>,3; 11:9<2x>).

חַכְמָה (28 times).

1:13,16<2x>,17,18; 2:3,9,12,13,21,26; 7:10,11,12<2x>,19,23,25; 8:1,16; 9:10,13,15,16<2x>,18;
10:1,10.

חָכָם or other words of the same root (25 times).

2:14,15,16<2x>,19<2x>; 4:13; 6:8; 7:4,5,7,16,19,23; 8:1,5,17; 9:1,11,15,17; 10:2,12; 12:9,11.

אֱלֹהִים God (39times).

1:13; 2:24,26; 3:10,11,13,14<2x>,15,17,18; 5:1[4:17]; 5:2[1]<2x>, 4[3], 5[4], 16[15], 17[16]<2x>,
19[18]; 6:2<2x>; 7:13,14,18,26,29; 8:2,12,13,15,17; 9:1,7; 11:5,9; 12:7,13,14.

עַתָּה time; experiences, fortunes; occurrence, occasion (38 times).

3:1, 2<4x>, 3<4x>, 4<4x>, 5<4x>, 6<4x>, 7<4x>, 8<4x>, 11, 17; 7:17; 8:5,6; 9:8,11,12<2x>).

עֲנִין occupation, task, job (8 times).

1:13; 2:23,26; 3:10; 4:8; 5:3[2],14[13]; 8:16).

דַּעַת knowledge, perception, skill (7 times).

1:16,17,18; 2:21,26; 7:12; 9:10).

יָדַע know (verb. 33 times).

1:17<2x>; 2:14,19; 3:12,14; 4:13; 6:5,8,10,12; 7:22,25<2x>; 8:1,5<2x>,7,12,16,17; 9:1,5<2x>,11,12;
10:14,15; 11:2,5<2x>,6,9)

שִׂמְחָה joy, mirth, gladness, gaiety, pleasure (noun. 8 times).

2:1,2,10,26; 5:20; 7:4; 8:15; 9:7).

שִׂמְחָה joyful, merry, glad (adjective) + **שִׂמְחָה** rejoice, be glad (verb). 9 times.

2:10; 3:12,22; 4:16; 5:19; 8:15; 10:19; 11:8,9.

טוֹב (47 times).

2:1,3,24<2x>,26<2x>; 3:12<2x>,13,22; 4:3,6,9<2x>,13; 5:5,18<2x>; 6:3,6,9,12;
7:1<2x>,2,3,5,8<2x>,10,11,14<2x>,18,20; 8:12,13,15; 9:2<2x>,4,7,16,18<2x>; 11:7; 12:14).

מִקְרָה unforeseen meeting or event, accident, happening; fortune, fate (7 times).

2:14,15; 3:19(3x); 9:2,3.

קָרָה encounter, meet, befall, happen, come to meet (3 times).

2:14,15; 9:11.

עוֹלָם (7 times).

1:4,10; 2:16; 3:11,14; 9:6; 12:5

נִפְשׁוּ (7 times).

2:24; 4:8; 6:2,3,7,9; 7:28.

<Evangelist who studies> 1:13,16-18; 2:12; 7:25; 8:9,16; 9:1; 12:9-10.

<Human business> 1:3,13-14; 2:4-11,17-22; 9:7-10.

<Work of God> 3:11,14; 7:13; 8:17; 11:5.

<Irrational human life> 1:21; 3:16; (4:1-3); 6:1-3; 7:15-17; 8:9-10,14; 9:11; 10:6-7.

<No satisfactory life> 1:8; 2:23; 3:9-10; 4:4,8; 5:9-16; 6:7; 10:15.

<Enjoy your life> 2:24,26; 3:12-13,22; 5:17-19; 8:15; 9:7-9; (11:8-9).

<The same happening> 2:14-16; 3:18-21; 9:2-3,11.

<How to worship God> 4:17; 5:1-6; 7:18; (8:120; 12;13).

<Judgment of God> 3:17; 11:9; 12:14.

<No memory> 1:11; 2:16; 9:5,15.

<Everything has its time> 3:1-8,11,17; 8:6.

<Nothing new> 1:9-10; (3:15); (6:10).