

## The Book of *ECCLESIASTES*

### *Ecclesiastes 1*

*1 The preacher shows that all human courses are vain: 9 they bring forth nothing new.*

1 ¶ The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem:

2 Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All *is* vanity!

3 What *is* the profit to a man in all his labor which he labors under the sun?

4 ¶ A generation goes away, and *another* generation comes; but the earth stands forever.

5 The sun also arises, and the sun goes even panting to its place; it arises there *again*.

6 The wind going toward the south, and turning around to the north; the wind is going round about *and* round about; and the wind returns on its circuits.

7 All the rivers are going to the sea; yet the sea *is* not full. To the place where the rivers are going, there they *are* returning to go *again*.

8 All words *are* wearisome; a man is not able to speak it. The eye is not satisfied to see, and the ear is not filled from hearing.

9 ¶ That which has been, it *is* that which shall be. And that which has been done, it *is* that which will be done. And there is no new *thing* under the sun.

10 Is there a thing *of* which one might say, See this, it *is* new? It has already been for the ages which were before us.

11 *There is* no memory of former *things*; yea, also of *things* which will be afterward; and not shall there be a memorial with those following.

12 ¶ I, the Preacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem.

13 And I gave my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom concerning all which is done under the heavens. *It is* an evil task God has given to the sons of men, to be afflicted by it.

14 I have seen all the works which are done under the sun; and, behold, all *is* vanity and striving *after* wind!

15 What *is* crooked cannot be made straight, and *that* lacking cannot be numbered.

16 I spoke with my heart, saying, Behold, I have become great and have increased wisdom over all that have been over Jerusalem before me. Yea, my heart has seen much wisdom and knowledge.

17 And I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness, and folly. I know that this also, it *is* striving *after* wind.

18 For in much wisdom *is* much grief; and he who increases knowledge increases pain.

### *Ecclesiastes 2*

*1 The vanity of human courses in the works of pleasure. 12 Though the wise be better than the fool, yet both have one event. 24 Nothing better than joy in our labor.*

1 ¶ I said in my heart, Come now, I will test you with mirth. Therefore, consider with goodness. And behold, this also *is* vanity.

2 I said of laughter, *it is* mad, and of mirth, What does it do?

3 I searched in my heart *how* to draw out my flesh with wine, and leading my heart in wisdom; and to lay hold on folly, until I might see where the good for the sons of men *is*, that which they should do under the heavens the number of days of their life.

4 I made my works great; I built houses for myself; I planted vineyards for myself;

5 I made gardens and parks for myself; and I planted trees in them of every fruit;

6 I made pools of water for myself; to water from them the forest shooting forth trees;

7 I bought male slaves and female slaves, and the sons of the house were mine. Also livestock, a herd and a great flock were mine, above all that were before me in Jerusalem.

8 I also gathered to me silver and gold, and the treasure of kings and of provinces. I made ready *men* to sing and *women* to sing for myself; and the delights of the sons of men, a concubine, and concubines.

9 And I became great and increased more than all who were before me in Jerusalem; also my wisdom stood with me.

10 And all that my eyes asked, I did not withdraw from them. I withheld not my heart from all joy; for my heart rejoiced from all my labor; and this was my portion from all my labor.

11 Then I faced on all my works that my hands had done, and on the labor that I had labored to do. And, behold, all *is* vanity and striving *after* wind, and *there is* no profit under the sun.

12 ¶ And I turned to consider wisdom, and madness, and folly. For what *can* a man *do* who comes after the king, when they have already done it?

13 Then I saw that there is advantage to wisdom above folly, even as light has advantage over darkness.

14 The wise man's eyes *are* in his head, but the fool walks in darkness; and I also know that one event happens with all of them.

15 And I said in my heart, As the event of the fool, even *so* it will happen to me; and why then was I more wise? And I said in my heart that this also *is* vanity.

16 For there *is* not a memory of the wise *ones more than* with the fool forever, in that already the days to come will be forgotten. And how do the wise *ones* die above the fool?

17 ¶ And I hated life; because the work that is done under the sun *is* an evil *thing* to me; for all *is* vanity and striving *after* wind.

18 Yea, I hated all my labor which I *did* under the sun, a laborer, that I must leave it to the man who will be after me.

19 And who knows *if* he will be wise or a fool? Yet he shall rule among all my labor in which I labored, and acted wisely under the sun. This *is* also vanity.

20 And I turned to make my heart despair over all the labor which I labored under the sun.

21 When there is a man whose labor is with wisdom, and with knowledge, and

with success, yet he shall give it to a man who has not labored with it, *for* his share; this also *is* vanity and a great evil.

22 For what is there for man in all his labor, and in striving of his heart, *which* he *did as a* laborer under the sun?

23 For all his days *are* pains, and his task *is* grief; his heart does not even lie down in the night. Even this also *is* vanity.

24 Is it not good that he should eat and drink and make his soul see good in his labor? This I also saw, that it *was* from the hand of God.

25 For who can eat, or who can enjoy, *apart* from Me?

26 For *God* gives wisdom, and knowledge and joy to a man who *is* good in His sight. But to the sinner He gives the task of gathering and to heap up, to give to *him* who *is* good before God. This also *is* vanity and striving *after* wind.

### ***Ecclesiastes 3***

*1 By the necessary change of times, vanity is added to human travail. 11 There is an excellence in Jehovah's works. 16 Jehovah shall judge man.*

1 ¶ To all *there is* an appointed time, even a time for every purpose under the heavens:

2 a time to bear, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pull up what *is* 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 weep, and a time to laugh; a time to lament, and a time to dance;

5 a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

6 a time to seek, and a time to let perish; a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

7 a time to tear, and a time to sew together; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

8 a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

9 What advantage *is* to him who works in that which he *did as* a laborer.

10 I have seen the task which God has given to the sons of men, to be humbled by it.

11 ¶ He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He has set eternity in their heart, without which man cannot find out the work that God makes from the beginning even to the end.

12 I know that *there is* no good in them, except for *a man* to rejoice to do good in his life.

13 And also every man that eats and drinks, and sees good in his labor, it *is* the gift of God.

14 I know that whatever God does, it shall be forever; nothing is to be added to it, and nothing is to diminish from it. For God does *it* so that they fear before Him.

15 That which has been, it already is; and that which *is* to be, *it* already has been. And God seeks that which is pursued.

16 ¶ And again I saw under the sun the place of judgment: wickedness *is* there; and the place of righteousness, wickedness *is* there.

17 I said in my heart, God shall judge the righteous *one* and the wicked *one*; for *there is* a time there for every good purpose and for every work there.

18 I said in my heart concerning the matter of the sons of men, that God may purge them and see that they *are* beasts, they by themselves.

19 For the event of the sons of men, and the event of beasts, even one event *is* to them. As this *one* dies, so that *one* dies; yea, one breath *is* to all; so that there is to the man no advantage over the beast; for all *is* vanity.

20 All go to one place; all are of the dust, and all return to the dust.

21 Who knows the spirit of the sons of man, *whether* it goes upward; and the spirit of the beast, *whether* it goes downward to the earth?

22 And I have seen that nothing *is* better than that the man should rejoice in his works; for that *is* his portion; for who can bring him to see what shall be after him?

### Ecclesiastes 4

*I Vanity is increased to men by oppression, 4 by envy, 5 by idleness, 7 by covetousness, 9 by solitariness, 13 by willfulness.*

1 ¶ So I returned and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun. And behold the tears of those who were oppressed, and *there is* not for them one who comforts! And at the hand of those

oppressing them *was* power; but there was not one who comforts them.

2 And I commended the *ones who* died, *those who* already have died, more than the living. that they *are* still alive.

3 Yea, better than both of them *is that one* who has not yet been, who has not seen the evil work that is done under the sun.

4 ¶ And I considered all labor, and every advantage of the work, that it is the envy of a man against his neighbor; this *is* also vanity and striving *after* wind.

5 The fool folds his hands together and eats his own flesh.

6 Better *is* a palm filled *with* rest, than two fists filled *with* labor and striving *after* wind.

7 ¶ And I returned and saw vanity under the sun.

8 There is one *alone*, and *there is* not a second; and *there is* not a son or a brother to him; and *there is* not an end to all his labor; even his eyes are not satisfied with riches; and *he says*, For whom do I labor, and my soul be without good? This *is* also vanity; yea, it *is* an evil task.

9 Two *are* better than one; because there is a good reward for their labor.

10 For if they fall, this one will lift up his companion. But woe to him, the one that falls, and there is not a second to lift him up.

11 Also if two lie *together*, even warmth *is* to them; but for one *alone*, how is he warm?

12 And if one overpowers him, two shall stand before him; and a threefold cord is not quickly torn apart.

13 ¶ A poor and a wise child *is* better than the old and stupid king who does not know to be warned any more.

14 For from the house of the imprisoned he goes forth to reign, although in his kingdom he was born poor.

15 I saw all the living who walk about under the sun, with the second child who shall stand up instead of him.

16 *There is* no end to all the people, to all who have been before them; also the later *ones* shall not rejoice with him. Surely this *is* also vanity and striving *after* wind.

## Ecclesiastes 5

*1 Vanities in divine service, 8 in murmuring against oppression, 9 and in riches. 18 Joy in riches is the gift of Jehovah.*

1 ¶ Guard your feet when you go to the house of God, and draw near to hear, more than to give a sacrifice, *as do* the fools. For they do not know that they are doing an evil *thing*.

2 Do not be hurried *with* your mouth, and do not let your heart hurry to bring forth a word before God. For God *is* in Heaven, and you *are* on earth; on account of this, let your words be few.

3 For the dream comes through the greatness of the task; and the voice of the fool *is* known by the greatness of *his* words.

4 ¶ When you vow a vow to God, do not wait to fulfill it. For *He* has no pleasure in fools. Fulfill that which you have vowed.

5 *It is* better that you should not vow, than that you should vow and not fulfill it.

6 Do not allow your mouth to cause your flesh to sin; do not say before the angel that it *was* an error. Why should God be angry over your voice, and destroy the work of your hands?

7 For in the multitude of dreams, both words and vanities abound; but fear God.

8 If you see the oppression of the poor, or the removing of justice and righteousness in the province, do not be amazed at the purpose. For a high one over a high one is watching; and high ones *are* over them.

9 ¶ And the advantage of a land, it is among all; *even* a king has a field being tilled.

10 *He who* loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; and *he who* loves abundance does not gain. This *is* also vanity.

11 When the good thing increases, those who devour it increase; then what profit *is it* to its possessor, except to see *it* with his eyes?

12 The sleep of the laboring man *is* sweet, whether he eats little or much. But the sated *lust* of the rich will not allow him to sleep.

13 There is an evil *thing which* I have seen under the sun, *which* makes *one* to be sick: riches being kept for its owner to his evil;

14 but those riches perish by an evil task; and he fathers a son, and not anything *is* in his hand.

15 As he came forth from his mother's womb naked, he shall return to go as he came. And from his toil he may not carry anything that may go in his hand.

16 And this also *is* an evil *thing which* makes *one* to be sick, *that* in all, as he came, so shall he go. And what profit is to him who has labored for the wind?

17 Also all his days he eats in darkness, and with much grief, and *with* his sickness and wrath.

18 ¶ Behold that which I have seen: *It is* good, *it is* beautiful, to eat and to drink and to see good in all his labor that the laborer *does* under the sun, the number of the days of his life which God gives to him, for *it is* his portion.

19 Also every man to whom God has given riches and treasures, and gives him power to eat of it, and to take his share, and to rejoice in *being* a laborer; *it is* the gift of God.

20 For he shall not much remember the days of his life, because God answers *him* in the joy of his heart.

## Ecclesiastes 6

*1 The vanity of riches without use. 3 Of children, 6 and old age without riches.*

1 ¶ There is an evil *thing* that I have seen under the sun, and it is great upon men:

2 A man to whom God has given riches, and wealth, and honor, so that he lacks nothing for his soul of all that he desires; yet God does not give him the power to eat of it, but a foreign man eats it; this *is* vanity, and *it is* an evil disease.

3 If a man fathers a hundred, and lives many years, and the days of his years are many, and his soul is not satisfied from the good, and also there is no burial for him; I say, a miscarriage is better than he.

4 For he comes in with vanity and goes out in darkness; his name shall be covered in darkness.

5 Also he has not seen and has not known the sun; more rest *is* to this *one* than to that *one*.

6 Yea, though he lives twice a thousand years, yet he has seen no good. Do not all go to one place?

7 ¶ All the labor of man *is* for his mouth, and yet the soul is not filled.

8 For what *is* the advantage to the wise *ones* above the fool? What *advantage is* to the humble *one* who knows *how* to walk before the living?

9 Better *is* the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the soul. This *is* also vanity and striving *after* wind.

10 That which has been, *its* name already was called, and it is known that he *is* man; and he is not able to contend with Him who is stronger than he.

11 ¶ Since there are many things that increase vanity, *and* what *is* the advantage to men?

12 For who knows what *is* good for man in this life, the number of the days of *his* life *of* vanity? Even he makes them like the shadow. For who can tell a man what shall be after him under the sun?

### Ecclesiastes 7

*1 Remedies against vanity are; a good name, 2 mortification, 7 patience, 11 wisdom.*

1 ¶ A good name *is* better than good oil; and the day of death than the day of one's birth.

2 *It is* better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting; for it *is* the end of every man; and the living will lay *it* to his heart.

3 Grief *is* better than laughter; for by the sadness of the face the heart is made good.

4 The heart of the wise *ones* is in the house of mourning; but the heart of the fool *is* in the house of mirth.

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

6 For as the sound of thorns under a pot, so *is* the laughter of the fool. And this also *is* vanity.

7 ¶ For oppression makes a wise *man* mad; and a bribe destroys the heart.

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

9 Do not hasten to be angry in your spirit; for anger rests in the bosom of fools.

10 Do not say, Why was *it* that the former days were better than these? For you do not ask from wisdom concerning this.

11 ¶ Wisdom *is* good with an inheritance; yea, an advantage to those who see the sun.

12 For wisdom *is* in a shadow; *and* silver *is* in a shadow; but the profit of knowledge *is that* wisdom gives life to its possessors.

13 Consider the work of God; for who can make that straight which He has bent?

14 On the good day, be in good *spirit*, but also consider in the evil day, *that* God has made this one along with this one, so that man should not find anything after him.

15 All *things* I have seen in the days of my vanity; there is a just *one* who perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked *one* who prolongs *his* life in his evil.

16 Do not be *too* much a righteous *one*, nor make yourself overly wise; why destroy yourself?

17 Do not be a very wicked *one*, and do not be a fool; why should you die *and* it not *be* your time?

18 *It is* good that you should take hold of this; yea, also from this do not let your hand rest; for he who fears God shall come forth with all of them.

19 Wisdom makes the wise *one* stronger than ten rulers who are in the city.

20 For *there is* not a just *one* on the earth who does good, and does not sin.

21 Also, do not give your heart to all the words they speak, that you not hear your servant cursing you.

22 For also your own heart knows that you yourself have also cursed others many times.

23 ¶ All this I have tested by wisdom: I said, I will be wise; but it *was* far from me.

24 What *is* far off and exceeding deep, who can find it out?

25 And I turned my heart about, to know, and to search out, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason *of things*, and to know the wickedness of folly, and the foolishness of madness:

26 and I found more bitter than death the woman whose heart *is* snares and nets; her hands *are* bonds. A good *man* before God shall escape from her; but the sinner shall be captured by her.

27 Behold, this I have found, says the Preacher, *counting* one by one to find out the sum,

28 that my soul still seeks, but I have not found; one man among a thousand I have

found, but a woman among all these I have not found.

29 See, this only I have found, that God has made man upright, but they have sought out many inventions.

### ***Ecclesiastes 8***

*1 Kings are greatly to be respected. 12 It is better with the godly in adversity, than with the wicked ones in prosperity.*

1 ¶ Who *is* as the wise *one*? And who knows the interpretation of a thing? A man's wisdom makes his face shine, and by might his face is changed.

2 I say, Keep the king's mouth, even on the matter of the oath of God;

3 do not hasten to go from before him. Do not take a stand in an evil matter, for all that he pleases he does.

4 Because the king's word *is* that which has power; even who will say to him, What are you doing?

5 *Whoever* keeps the command shall not know an evil thing. The heart of the wise *ones* know both time and judgment.

6 ¶ Because there is a time and judgment to every purpose, in *this* the evil of man *is* great upon him.

7 For he does not know what shall be. For who can declare to him when it shall be?

8 Man is not a ruler over the spirit, to restrain the spirit; and not he has power in the day of death. And *there is* no discharge in *that* war, and wickedness shall not deliver its possessors.

9 ¶ All this I have seen. I gave my heart to every work that is done under the sun. *There is* a time in which a man rules over a man for an evil *reason* to him.

10 And this I saw, the wicked *ones* buried; and they came and went from the holy place, and were forgotten in the city, *these* things that they had done. *This is* also vanity.

11 Where sentence *on* an evil work is not executed speedily, on account of this the heart of the sons of men is filled in them to do an evil *act*.

12 Though a sinner does evil a hundred *times*, and his *days* are long to him, yet surely I know that it shall be well to those who fear God, who fear before Him.

13 But it shall not be good for the wicked *one*; and he shall not prolong *his* days like a shadow, because he does not fear before God.

14 ¶ There is a vanity which is done on the earth: There are just *ones* whom it touches to them according to the works of the wicked *ones*; and there are wicked *ones* to whom it touches according to the work of the righteous *ones*. I said that this also *is* vanity.

15 Then I praised mirth, because nothing is good for man under the sun except to eat and to drink and to be glad. For that shall join with him in his labor for the days of his life which God gives him under the sun.

16 When I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to see the task that is done on the earth; for even by day and by night he does not see sleep in his eyes.

17 Then I saw all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun; that for which a man labors to seek out, yet he shall not find it. And even if the wise *ones* speak of knowing, he shall not be able to find *it*.

### ***Ecclesiastes 9***

*1 Like things happen to good and bad. 4 There is a necessity of death to men. 11 Jehovah's providence rules over all. 13 Wisdom is better than strength.*

1 ¶ For all this I gave to my heart, even to clear up all this, that the righteous *ones* and the wise *ones* and their works *are* in the hand of God. Also love, also hatred, man does not know all *that is* before them.

2 All that *happens* it is to all; one event to the righteous *one*, and to the wicked *one*; to the good *one*, and to the clean *one*, and to the unclean *one*; to him who sacrifices, and to him who does not sacrifice. As *is* the good *one*, so *is* the sinner; *he* who swears is as *he* that fears an oath.

3 *This is* an evil *event* among all *things* that are done under the sun, that *there is* one event to all. Yea, also the heart of the sons of men is full of evil *purpose*, and madness *is* in their heart while they *are* alive, and after that *they* go to those who died.

4 ¶ For *to him* who is chosen to be among all the living, there is hope. For a living dog *is* better than a lion *that* died.

5 For the living know that they shall die; but *the ones* having died do not know anything, and not to them is any more a reward, for their memory is forgotten.

6 Also their love, their hatred, and their envy has now perished; and not *there* is a portion for them any more forever in all that is done under the sun.

7 Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a good heart, for God now is pleased with your works.

8 Let your garments be white at every time; and let your head lack no oil.

9 Look *on* life with the wife whom you love all the days of the life of your vanity, which He gave you under the sun, all the days of your vanity. For that *is* your portion in *this* life, and in your labor which you *as* a laborer *do* under the sun.

10 All that your hand finds to do, do *it* with your strength. For *there is* no work, or planning, or knowledge, or wisdom, in Sheol, there where you go.

11 ¶ I turned back and saw under the sun that the race *is* not to the swift *ones*, and the battle not to the mighty *ones*, and not even bread to the wise *one*, and not even riches to discerning *ones*; and not even favor to *ones* knowing. For time and occurrence happen to them all.

12 For man also does not know his time. As the fish that are caught in the evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the trap, like these *are* the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falls suddenly on them.

13 ¶ This wisdom I saw also under the sun, and it *is* great to me:

14 *there was* a little city, and few men in it. And a great king came against it, and turned around it, and built huge siege works against it.

15 And there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom saved the city. Yet no man remembered that poor man!

16 And I said, Wisdom *is* better than strength; but the poor man's wisdom *is* despised, and his words are not heard.

17 The words of wise *ones are* heard in quiet, more than the cry of one who rules among fools.

18 Wisdom *is* better than weapons of conflict; but one sinner destroys much good.

## Ecclesiastes 10

1 Observations of wisdom and folly: 16 of riot, 18 laziness, 19 and money. 20 Men's thoughts of kings ought to be reverent.

1 ¶ As flies of death cause the perfumer's oil to stink *and* ferment; so a little foolishness is heavier than wisdom *and* honor.

2 The heart of the wise *one is* toward his right, but the fool's heart toward his left.

3 And also, in the way in which a fool walks, his heart is lacking, and he says to all *that he is* a fool.

4 ¶ If the spirit of the ruler rises up against you, do not leave your place; for *a mind of* health quiets great sins.

5 There is an evil *thing* I have seen under the sun, like a sin of error that comes from the presence of the ruler:

6 folly is set in many high *positions*, and many rich *ones* sit in humble *situations*.

7 I have seen slaves on horses, and rulers walking as slaves on the earth.

8 He who digs a pit may fall into it; and one breaking a wall, a snake may bite him.

9 *He who* pulls out stones may be hurt with them; *he who* splits trees may be endangered by them.

10 If the iron is blunt, and he does not whet the faces, even *he must add* more strength; *it must* be strong. But wisdom *is* an advantage giving success.

11 If the snake will bite without charming, then there *is* no advantage to a master of tongue.

12 ¶ The words of a wise mouth *are* grace, but the lips of a fool swallow him;

13 the beginning of the words of his mouth *is* foolishness; and the end of his mouth *is* evil madness.

14 Yet the fool makes many words; a man knows not what shall be; and what shall be after him, who can tell him?

15 The labor of fools wearies them, because he does not know *how* to go to the city.

16 ¶ Woe to you, O land, when your king *is* a boy, and your leaders eat in the morning.

17 Blessed *are* you, O land, when your king *is* the son of nobles, and your leaders eat in *due* time, in strength, and not in drinking.

18 The framework sinks through laziness; and through lowering of hands, the house leaks.

19 Bread is made for laughter, and wine gladdens life; but silver answers all things.

20 Also, do not curse a king in your thought; and do not curse the rich in your bedrooms; for a bird of the heavens may carry the voice; yea, the lord of wings may tell the matter.

**Ecclesiastes 11**

1 Directions for charity. 7 Death in life, 9 and the day of judgment matters in the days of youth.

1 ¶ Send out your bread on the face of the waters, for you shall find it in many days.

2 Give a share to seven, or even to eight; for you do not know what evil may be on the earth.

3 If the clouds are full of rain, they empty on the earth. And if the tree falls in the south, or in the north, in the place where the tree falls, there it shall be.

4 He who watches the wind shall not sow, and he who looks at the clouds shall not reap.

5 As you do not know what is the way of the Spirit, as the bones in the womb of the full one, even so you do not know the works of God who makes all.

6 Sow your seed in the morning, and do not rest your hand until evening; for you do not know what shall succeed, this or that; or whether they both shall be good as one.

7 ¶ Also the light is sweet; yea, it is good for the eyes to see the sun.

8 But if the man lives many years, let him rejoice in them all, and remember the days of darkness, for they shall be many. All that may come is vanity.

9 Rejoice, O young man, in your youth. And make your heart glad in the days of your youth, and walk in the ways of your heart, and in the sight of your eyes; but know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment.

10 And turn aside frustration from your heart, and cause evil purpose to pass from your flesh. For childhood and prime of life are vanity.

**Ecclesiastes 12**

1 The Creator is to be remembered in due time.

13 The fear of Jehovah is the antidote of vanity.

1 ¶ Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, until the evil days do

not come, or the years reach when you shall say, There is no pleasure in them for me;

2 until not yet the sun, and the light, and the moon, and the stars, are darkened, and the clouds return after rain;

3 in the day when those keeping the house shall tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the ones grinding cease because they are few; and those looking out the windows become dim.

4 And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of grinding is low, and one rises up at the voice of a bird, and all the daughters of song are silenced;

5 also they shall be afraid of a high place, and terrors in the way; and the almond tree shall blossom, and the locust makes himself a burden; and desire breaks, because man goes to the house of eternity, and the wailers go about in the street;

6 while the silver cord has not gone far away, or the golden bowl is crushed, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern;

7 then the dust shall return to the earth as it was, and the spirit shall return to God who gave it.

8 ¶ Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, all is vanity.

9 And more than that, the Preacher was wise; he still more taught the people knowledge; and gave ear, and sought out and set in order many proverbs.

10 The Preacher sought to find out pleasing words, and words of truth written on uprightness.

11 The words of wise ones are as goads; yea, as nails driven in are the masters of collections, they are given from one Shepherd.

12 And more than these, my son, be warned: The making of many books has no end, and much study is weariness of the flesh.

13 ¶ Let us hear the end of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments; for this applies to every man.

14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with all that is hidden, whether it is good, or whether it is evil.