

Sepher Koheleth (Ecclesiastes)

Chapter 12

יָדָגְרָה-כֹּל אִשָּׁה אֶם יִבְרָאָהּ אֶת-בְּחֹרֹתֶיהָ עַד אֲשֶׁר לֹא-יִבְאֹהּ
אֶת-בְּחֹרֹתֶיהָ בְּיָמֵי בְחֹרֹתֶיהָ עַד אֲשֶׁר לֹא-יִבְאֹהּ
יָמֵי הַרְעָה וְהִגְיעוּ שָׁנִים אֲשֶׁר תֹּאמַר אֵינֶן-לִי בָהֶם חֶפְצִי:

1. uz'kor 'eth-bor'eyak bimey b'churotheyak `ad 'asher lo'-yabo'u y'mey hara`ah w'higi'u shanim 'asher to'mar 'eyn-li bahem chephets.

Ecc12:1 Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, while the evil days do not come, nor the years draw near when you shall say, I have no pleasure in them;

<12:1> καὶ μνήσθητι τοῦ κτίσαντός σε ἐν ἡμέραις νεότητός σου, ἕως ὅτου μὴ ἔλθωσιν ἡμέραι τῆς κακίας καὶ φθάσωσιν ἔτη, ἐν οἷς ἐρεῖς Οὐκ ἔστιν μοι ἐν αὐτοῖς θέλημα·

1 kai mnēsthēti tou ktisantos se en hēmerais neotētos sou, And remember the one creating you in the days of your youth! heōs hotou mē elthōsin hēmerai tēs kakias kai phthasōsin etē, while should not come the days of evil, nor should arrive years, en hois ereis Ouk estin moi en autois thelēma; in which you then say, There is not in me for them a want.

יָבֹאוּ הַיָּמִים אֲחֵרִים וְהָיָה חֹשֶׁךְ וְהָיָה חֹשֶׁךְ וְהָיָה חֹשֶׁךְ וְהָיָה חֹשֶׁךְ וְהָיָה חֹשֶׁךְ
בְּעַד אֲשֶׁר לֹא-תִחַשֵּׁךְ הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ וְהָאֵשׁ וְהַיָּרֵחַ וְהַכּוֹכָבִים
וְשָׁבוּ הָעָבִים אַחֵרִים הַגִּשְׁמִים:

2. `ad 'asher lo'-thech'shak hashemesh w'ha'or w'hayareach w'hakokabim w'shabu he`abim 'achar hagashem.

Ecc12:2 while not yet the sun and the light, the moon and the stars are darkened, and clouds return after the rain;

<2> ἕως οὐ μὴ σκοτισθῆ ὁ ἥλιος καὶ τὸ φῶς καὶ ἡ σελήνη καὶ οἱ ἀστέρες, καὶ ἐπιστρέψωσιν τὰ νέφη ὀπίσω τοῦ ὑετοῦ·

2 heōs hou mē skotisthē ho hēlios kai to phōs While are not darkened the sun and the light, kai hē selēnē kai hoi asteres, kai epistrepōsin ta nephē opisō tou huetou; nor the moon and the stars; nor return the clouds after the rain;

לִבְרָאָהּ אֶת-בְּחֹרֹתֶיהָ עַד אֲשֶׁר לֹא-יִבְאֹהּ
אֶת-בְּחֹרֹתֶיהָ עַד אֲשֶׁר לֹא-יִבְאֹהּ
יָמֵי הַרְעָה וְהִגְיעוּ שָׁנִים אֲשֶׁר תֹּאמַר אֵינֶן-לִי בָהֶם חֶפְצִי:

וּבְטָלוּ הַטְחָנוֹת כִּי מְעַטּוֹ וַחֲשָׁכוּ הָרְאוֹת בְּאֶרְבֹּת:

3. bayom sheyazu`u shom'rey habayith w'hith`au'thu 'an'shey hechayil ubat'lu hatochanoth ki mi`etu w'chash'ku haro'oth ba'aruboth.

Ecc12:3 in the day that the watchmen of the house shall tremble, and mighty men shall bow themselves, the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through windows are darkened;

<3> ἐν ἡμέρᾳ, ἣ ἐὰν σαλευθῶσιν φύλακες τῆς οἰκίας καὶ διαστραφῶσιν ἄνδρες τῆς δυνάμεως, καὶ ἤργησαν αἱ ἀλήθουσai, ὅτι ὀλιγόθησαν, καὶ σκοτάσουσιν αἱ βλέπουσαι ἐν ταῖς ὀπαῖς·

3 en hēmera, hē ean saleuthōsin phylakes tēs oikias in a day in which ever should be shaken the keepers of the house,

kai diastraphōsin andres tēs dynamēōs, and should be turned aside men of power,

kai ērgēsan hai alēthousai, hoti oligōthēsan, and are idle the grinding women because they are made few,

kai skotasousin hai blepousai en tais opais; and shall darken the women looking out of the openings;

אָנְחָא לְפָנַי פְּנֵי מַלְאָכָא דְּמַלְאָכָא
:אַנְחָא מְלָכָא דְּמַלְאָכָא דְּמַלְאָכָא
דְּוִסְגָרוֹ דְּלִתִּים בְּשׁוֹק בְּשַׁפֵּל קוֹל הַטְחָנָה
וַיִּקְוִם לְקוֹל הַצִּפּוֹר וַיִּשְׁחֹר כָּל-בְּנוֹת הַנְּשִׁיר:

4. w'sug'ru d'lathayim bashuq bi'sh'phal qol hatachanah w'yaqum l'qol hatsipor w'yishachu kai-b'noth hashir.

Ecc12:4 and the doors on the street are shut as the sound of the grinding mill is low, and one shall arise at the sound of the bird, and all the daughters of music shall be silenced.

<4> καὶ κλείσουσιν θύρας ἐν ἀγορᾷ ἐν ἀσθενείᾳ φωνῆς τῆς ἀληθούσης, καὶ ἀναστήσεται εἰς φωνὴν τοῦ στρουθίου, καὶ ταπεινωθήσονται πᾶσαι αἱ θυγατέρες τοῦ ᾄσματος·

4 kai kleisousin thyras en agora and they shall lock the doors in the market en astheneiā phōnēs tēs alēthousēs, in weakness of the sound of the woman grinding,

kai anastēsetai eis phōnēn tou strouthiou, and one shall rise up to the sound of the sparrow,

kai tapeinōthēsontai pasai hai thygateres tou ᾄsmatos; and shall be humbled all the daughters of song;

אָנְחָא לְפָנַי פְּנֵי מַלְאָכָא דְּמַלְאָכָא
:אַנְחָא מְלָכָא דְּמַלְאָכָא דְּמַלְאָכָא
דְּוִסְגָרוֹ דְּלִתִּים בְּשׁוֹק בְּשַׁפֵּל קוֹל הַטְחָנָה
וַיִּקְוִם לְקוֹל הַצִּפּוֹר וַיִּשְׁחֹר כָּל-בְּנוֹת הַנְּשִׁיר:

הַגַּם מִגְּבוּהַ יִרְאוּ וַחֲתֻחֻתִּים בְּהִרְדָּה וַיִּנְאֵץ הַשֶּׁקֶד וַיִּסְתַּבֵּל הַחֲגָב

וְתָפַר הָאֲבִיוֹנָה כִּי-הִלֵּךְ הָאָדָם אֶל-בֵּית עוֹלָמוֹ
וְסָבְבוּ בַשּׁוּק הַסְּפָדִים:

5. gam migaboah yira'u w'chath'chatim baderek w'yane'ts hashaqed w'yis'tabel hechagab w'thapher ha'abionah ki-holek ha'adam 'el-beyth `olamo w'sab'bu bashuq hasoph'dim.

Ecc12:5 Also when they shall be afraid of a high place and of terrors in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the locust becomes burdensome, and desire shall fail: because man goes to his eternal house while the mourners go about in the street.

<5> καὶ γε ἀπὸ ὕψους ὄψονται, καὶ θάμβοι ἐν τῇ ὁδῷ·
καὶ ἀνθήσῃ τὸ ἀμύγδαλον, καὶ παχυνθῇ ἡ ἀκρίς,
καὶ διασκεδασθῇ ἡ κάππαρις, ὅτι ἐπορεύθη ὁ ἄνθρωπος
εἰς οἶκον αἰῶνος αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἐκύκλωσαν ἐν ἀγορᾷ οἱ κοπτόμενοι·

5 kai ge apo huuous opsontai, kai thamboi en tē hodō;
and indeed from the height they shall see, even stupefaction in the way;
kai anthēsē to amygdalon, kai pachynthē hē akris,
and shall bloom the almond, and shall thicken the locust,
kai diaskedasthē hē kapparis, hoti eporeuthē ho anthrōpos eis oikon aiōnos autou,
and shall be dispersed the caper; because went man to house his eternal;
kai ekyklōsan en agorā hoi koptomenoi;
and circled in the market the ones beating their chests in mourning;

וְעַד אֲשֶׁר לֹא-יִרְחַק חֶבֶל הַכֶּסֶף וְתָרַץ גִּלְתַּת הַזָּהָב
וְתִשָּׁבַר כֶּד עַל-הַמַּבּוּיעַ וְנָרַץ הַגִּלְגָּל אֶל-הַבּוֹר:

6. `ad 'asher lo'-yirchaq chebel hakeseph w'tharuts gulath hazahab w'thishaber kad `al-hamabu'a w'narots hagal'gal 'el-habor.

Ecc12:6 while not yet the silver cord is loosed, and the golden bowl is crushed, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel is broken at the cistern;

<6> ἕως ὅτου μὴ ἀνατραπῇ σχοινίον τοῦ ἀργυρίου,
καὶ συνθλιβῇ ἀνθέμιον τοῦ χρυσοῦ, καὶ συντριβῇ ὑδρία ἐπὶ τὴν πηγὴν,
καὶ συντροχάσῃ ὁ τροχὸς ἐπὶ τὸν λάκκον,

6 heōs hotou mē anatrappē schoinion tou argyriou,
until whenever should be prostrated the line of silver;
kai synthlibē anthemion tou chrysiou,
and should be broken the flower ornament of gold,
kai syntribē hydria epi tēn pēgēn,
and should be broken the water-pitcher at the spring,
kai syntrochasē ho trochos epi ton lakkon,
and should have rolled the wheel unto the pit;

אֶל-הַבּוֹר אֶל-הַבּוֹר אֶל-הַבּוֹר אֶל-הַבּוֹר

אֵפֶר עַל-הָאָרֶץ כְּשֶׁהָיָה
וְהָרוּחַ תָּשׁוּב אֶל-הָאֱלֹהִים אֲשֶׁר נָתַנָּהּ:

7. w'yashob he`aphar `al-ha'arets k'shehayah
w'haruach tashub `el-ha'Elohim `asher n'thanah.

Ecc12:7 then the dust shall return to the earth as it was,
and the spirit shall return to the Elohim who gave it.

<7> καὶ ἐπιστρέψῃ ὁ χόους ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν, ὡς ἦν,
καὶ τὸ πνεῦμα ἐπιστρέψῃ πρὸς τὸν θεόν, ὃς ἔδωκεν αὐτό.

7 kai epistrepsē ho chous epi tēn gēn, hōs ēn,
then shall return the dust upon the earth as it was;
kai to pneuma epistrepsē pros ton theon, hos edōken auto.
and the spirit should return to the Elohim who gave it.

אָמַר הַקֹּהֵלֶת הַכֹּל הַבָּל:
חַבְלֵי הַבָּלִים אָמַר הַקֹּהֵלֶת הַכֹּל הַבָּל:

8. habel habalim `amar haqoheleth hakol habel.

Ecc12:8 Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, all is vanity!

<8> ματαιότης ματαιότητων, εἶπεν ὁ Ἐκκλησιαστής, τὰ πάντα ματαιότης.

8 mataiotēs mataiotētōn, eipen ho Ekklesiastēs, ta panta mataiotēs.
Folly of follies, said the ecclesiastic, all things are folly.

טוֹיֵתֶר שְׁהָיָה קֹהֵלֶת חָכָם עוֹד לְמַד-דַּעַת אֶת-הָעָם
וְאֵיזֵן וְחִקֵּר תִּקְוֵן מִשְׁלִים הַרְבֵּה:

9. w'yother shehayah qoheleth chakam `od limad-da`ath `eth-ha`am
w'izen w'chiqer tiqen m'shalim har'beh.

Ecc12:9 And more than that the Preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge;
and he pondered, searched out and arranged many proverbs.

<9> Καὶ περισσὸν ὅτι ἐγένετο Ἐκκλησιαστής σοφός,
ὅτι ἐδίδαξεν γνῶσιν σὺν τὸν ἄνθρωπον, καὶ οὗς ἐξιχνιάσεται κόσμιον παραβολῶν.

9 Kai perisson hoti egeneto Ekklesiastēs sophos,
And it was extra that became the ecclesiastic wise,
hoti edidaxen gnōsin syn ton anthrōpon,
so that was that he taught knowledge with man,
kai ous exichniasetai kosmion parabolōn.
and which he shall trace composed parables.

וְחִקֵּר וְחִקֵּר תִּקְוֵן מִשְׁלִים הַרְבֵּה

י בִּקֵּשׁ קוֹהֶלֶת לְמִצְאָה הַבְּרִי-חֶפְזִים וְכָתוּב יִשָּׂר הַבְּרִי אֱמֶת:

10. **biqesh qoheleth lim'tso' dib'rey-chephets w'kathub yosher dib'rey 'emeth.**

Ecc12:10 The Preacher sought to find delightful words and to write words of truth rightly.

<10> πολλά ἐζήτησεν Ἐκκλησιαστῆς τοῦ εὐρεῖν λόγους θελήματος
καὶ γεγραμμένον εὐθύτητος, λόγους ἀληθείας.

10 **polla ezētēsen Ekklesiastēs tou heurein logous thelēmatos**
much sought The ecclesiastic to find of words a wanting,
kai gegrammenon euthytētos, logous alētheias.
and writing of uprightness of words of truth.

11
אֵלֶּיךָ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ כְּבָרֵינוּ כְּבָרֵינוּ כְּבָרֵינוּ כְּבָרֵינוּ
יֵא הַבְּרִי חֶכְמִים פְּדָרְבְּנוֹת

וְכַמְשֻׁמְרוֹת נְטוּעִים בְּעַלְי אֲסֻפּוֹת נִתְּנוּ מִרְעָה אֶחָד:

11. **dib'rey chakamim kadar'bonoth**
uk'mas'm'roth n'tu'im ba'aley 'asupoth nit'nu mero`eh 'echad.

Ecc12:11 The words of wise are as goads, and as nails fastened
by the masters of collections, which they are given by one Shepherd.

<11> Λόγοι σοφῶν ὡς τὰ βούκεντρα καὶ ὡς ἦλοι πεφυτευμένοι,
οἱ παρὰ τῶν συναγμάτων ἐδόθησαν ἐκ ποιμένος ἑνὸς καὶ περισσὸν ἐξ αὐτῶν.

11 **Logoi sophōn hōs ta boukentra kai hōs hēloi pephyteumenoi,**
The words of the wise are as the oxgoads, and as nails firmly planted;
hoi para tōn synagmatōn edothēsan ek poimenos henos kai perisson ex autōn.
ones which by agreement were given from shepherd one. And extra by them

12
יְבִיתֵךְ מִהֶמָּה בְּנֵי הַזָּהָר עֲשׂוֹת סְפָרִים הַרְבֵּה אֵין קֵץ
וְלֹהֵג הַרְבֵּה יִגְעַת בְּשָׂר:

12. **w'yother mehemah b'ni hizaher `asoth s'pharim har'beh 'eyn qets**
w'lahag har'beh y'gi`ath basar.

Ecc12:12 And more than they, my son, be warned:
the making of many books has no end, and much study is weariness of the flesh.

<12> υἱέ μου, φύλαξαι ποιῆσαι βιβλία πολλά·
οὐκ ἔστιν περασμός, καὶ μελέτη πολλὴ κόπωσις σαρκός.

12 **huie mou, phylaxai poiēsai biblia polla;**
O my son guard! To make scrolls many
ouk estin perasmos, kai meletē pollē kopōsis sarkos.
there is no limit; and meditation much is weariness of flesh.

13
יְבִיתֵךְ מִהֶמָּה בְּנֵי הַזָּהָר עֲשׂוֹת סְפָרִים הַרְבֵּה אֵין קֵץ

יגסוף דְּבַר הַכֹּל נִשְׁמַע אֶת-הָאֱלֹהִים
יָרֵא וְאֶת-מִצְוֹתָיו שְׁמֹר כִּי-זֶה כָּל-הָאָדָם:

13. **soph** **dabar** **hakol** **nish'ma`** **'eth-ha'Elohim**
y'ra' w'eth-mits'wothayu sh'mor ki-zeh kal-ha'adam.

Ecc12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter.

Fear the Elohim and keep His commandments, because this is the whole duty of man.

<13> Τέλος λόγου τὸ πᾶν ἀκούεται

Τὸν θεὸν φοβοῦ καὶ τὰς ἐντολάς αὐτοῦ φύλασσε, ὅτι τοῦτο πᾶς ὁ ἄνθρωπος.

13 Telos logou to pan akouetai

The end of of the whole matter, hear!

Ton theon phobou kai tas entolas autou phylasse, hoti touto pas ho anthrōpos.

Fear the Elohim, and his commandments keep! for this is all man!

יד כִּי אֶת-כָּל-מַעֲשֵׂה הָאֱלֹהִים יָבֵא בְּמִשְׁפָּט
עַל כָּל-נַעֲלָם אִם-טוֹב וְאִם-רָע:

14. **ki 'eth-kal-ma`aseh ha'Elohim yabi' b'mish'pat`al kal-ne`lam 'im-tob w'im-ra`.**

Ecc12:14 For the Elohim shall bring every work to judgment,
over all that is hidden, whether it is good or it is evil.

<14> ὅτι σὺν πᾶν τὸ ποιῆμα ὁ θεὸς ἄξει ἐν κρίσει

ἐν παντὶ παρεωραμένῳ, ἐὰν ἀγαθὸν καὶ ἐὰν πονηρόν.

14 hoti syn pan to poiēma ho theos axei en krisei

For every action the Elohim shall lead into judgment,

en panti pareōramenō, ean agathon kai ean ponēron.

with all being looked over, if good and if evil.