

Sepher Koheleth (Ecclesiastes)

Chapter 8

אָמֵן כִּי חֲכַם וְמֵרִירֶה יְדֹעַ בְּפִשְׁר הַבָּר חֲכַמָּת אָדָם תְּאִיר פָּנָיו
וְעַז פָּנָיו רַשְׁגָּא: Ecc8:1

אָמֵן כִּי חֲכַם וְמֵרִירֶה יְדֹעַ בְּפִשְׁר הַבָּר חֲכַמָּת אָדָם תְּאִיר פָּנָיו
וְעַז פָּנָיו רַשְׁגָּא:

1. mi k'hechakam umi yode'a pesher dabar chak'math 'adam ta'ir panayu
w`oz panayu y'shune'.

Ecc8:1 Who is as the wise man and who knows the interpretation of a matter?
A man's wisdom makes his face, and the boldness of his face shall be changed.

<8:1> Τίς οἶδεν σοφούς; καὶ τίς οἶδεν λύσιν ρήματος;
σοφία ἀνθρώπου φωτεινή πρόσωπον αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἀναιδὴς προσώπῳ αὐτοῦ μισηθήσεται.

1 Tis oiden sophous? kai tis oiden lysin hrēmatois?

Who knows the wise? And who knows the loosening of a saying?
sophia anthrōpou phōtiei prosōpon autou,
wisdom A man's shall lighten his countenance;
kai anaidēs prosōpō autou misēthēsetai.
and an impudent man's countenance shall be detested.

בְּאַנְיִ פִּי־מֶלֶךְ שְׁמֹר וְעַל הַבָּרָת שְׁבֻוּת אֱלֹהִים:
2. 'ani pi-melek sh'mor w'al dib'rath sh'bu'ath 'Elohim.

Ecc8:2 I say, Keep the command of the king, even on the matter of the oath of Elohim.

<2> στόμα βασιλέως φύλαξον καὶ περὶ λόγου ὅρκου θεοῦ μὴ σπουδάσῃς.

2 stoma basileōs phylaxon kai peri logou horkou theou
the mouth of a king Watch! even because of the word of the oath of Elohim.
mē spoudasēs;
not hurriedly

בְּאַל־תִּבְהַל מִפְנִיו תָּלַךְ אַל־תִּעַמֵּד בְּדָבָר רָע
כִּי כָּל־אָשֵׁר יְחַפֵּץ יַעֲשֵׂה:
3. 'al-tibahel mipanayu telek 'al-ta'amod b'dabar ra' ki 'kal-'asher yach'pots ya'aseh.

Ecc8:3 Do not be hasty to go out of his sight.

Do not join in an evil matter, for he shall do whatever he pleases.

<3> ἀπὸ προσώπου αὐτοῦ πορεύσῃ, μὴ στῆσις ἐν λόγῳ πονηρῷ·
ὅτι πᾶν, ὃ ἔὰν θελήσῃ, ποιήσει,

3 apo prosōpou autou poreusē, mē stēs en logō ponērō;
from his face You should go. You should not stand in matter an evil,
hoti pan, ho ean thelēsē, poiēsei,
for what ever he wants, he does.

וְאֵשֶׁר־מֶלֶךְ־בָּרְכָתְּךָ־עַל־עַמְּךָ־וְאֵשֶׁר־מֶלֶךְ־יְהוָה־מִתְּפַנְּךָ:

4. ba'asher d'bar-melek shil'ton umi yo'mar-lo mah-ta`aseh.

Ecc8:4 Where the word of the king is, there is power,
who shall say to him, What are you doing?

<4> καθὼς βασιλεὺς ἔξουσιάζων, καὶ τίς ἐρεῦ αὐτῷ Τί ποιήσεις;

4 kathōs basileus exousiazōn, kai tis erei autō Ti poiēseis?

As a king exercising authority, and who shall say to him, What do you do?

הַשׁוֹמֵר מִצְוָה לֹא יְדֻעַ בְּדָבָר רָע וְעַת וּמִשְׁפָט יְדֻעַ לְבַחֲכָם:

5. shomer mits'wah lo' yeda` dabar ra` w`eth umish'pat yeda` leb chakam.

Ecc8:5 Whoever keeps the commandment shall know no evil thing,
for a wise heart knows both time and judgment.

<5> ὁ φυλάσσων ἐντολὴν οὐ γνώσεται ρῆμα πονηρόν,
καὶ καιρὸν κρίσεως γνώσκει καρδία σοφοῦ.

5 ho phyllassōn entolēn ou gnōsetai hrēma ponēron,

The one keeping the commandment shall not know matter an evil.

kai kairon kriseōs ginōskei kardia sophou;
And the time of judgment knows the heart of the wise.

וְכִי לְכָל־חֶפְץ יֵשׁ עַת וּמִשְׁפָט כִּירְבָּעַת הָאָדָם רַבָּה עַלְיוֹן:

6. ki l'kal-chephets yesh `eth umish'pat ki-ra`ath ha'adam rabbah `alayu.

Ecc8:6 Because to every purpose there is time and procedure,
Therefore the evil of man is great upon him.

<6> ὅτι παντὶ πράγματι ἔστιν καιρὸς καὶ κρίσις,
ὅτι γνῶσις τοῦ ἀνθρώπου πολλὴ ἐπ' αὐτόν.

6 hoti panti pragmati estin kairos kai krisis,
For every thing there is a season and judgment;
hoti gnōsis tou anthrōpou pollē ep' auton;
for knowledge of man is vast unto him.

זְכִיר־אַרְגָּנוּ יְדָעַ מִתְּפַנְּךָ כִּי כָּאֵשֶׁר יְהִי מִרְגִּיד לֹו:

7. ki-'eynenu yode`a mah-sheyih'yeh ki ka'asher yih'yeh mi yagid lo.

Ecc8:7 For he does not know that which shall be; for who can tell him when it shall be?

<7> ὅτι οὐκ ἔστιν γινώσκων τί τὸ ἐσόμενον, ὅτι καθὼς ἔσται τίς ἀναγγελεῖ αὐτῷ;
 7 hoti ouk estin ginōskōn ti to esomenon,
 For there is not one knowing what shall be being;
 hoti kathōs estai tis anaggelei autō?
 for as it shall be, who shall announce him?

אָנֹכִי אֲדֹם שְׁלִיט בְּרוֹחַ לְכָלוֹא אֶת־הָרֹוחַ
 וְאֵין שְׁלֹטוֹן בַּיּוֹם הַמֹּות וְאֵין מְשֻׁלָּחַ בַּמְּלֹחָמָה
 וְלֹא־יְמִלַּט רְשָׁע אֶת־בְּעָלָיו:

8. 'eyn 'adam shalit baruach lik'lo' 'eth-haruach w'eyn shil'ton b'yom hamaweth
 w'eyn mish'lachath bamil'chamah w'lo'-y'malet resha` 'eth-b`alayu.

Ecc8:8 There is no man that has power over the spirit to retain the spirit;
 neither has he power in the day of death:
 and there is no discharge in that war, nor shall wickedness deliver its possessors.

<8> οὐκ ἔστιν ἄνθρωπος ἔξουσιάζων ἐν πνεύματι τοῦ κωλῦσαι σὺν τὸ πνεῦμα·
 καὶ οὐκ ἔστιν ἔξουσία ἐν ἡμέρᾳ τοῦ θανάτου,
 καὶ οὐκ ἔστιν ἀποστολὴ ἐν ἡμέρᾳ τῷ πολέμῳ,
 καὶ οὐ διασώσει ἀσέβεια τὸν παρ' αὐτῆς.

8 ouk estin anthrōpos exousiazōn en pneumati tou kōlysai syn to pneuma;
 There is no man exercising authority over spirit to restrain with the spirit;
 kai ouk estin exousia en hēmerā tou thanatou,
 and there is no exercising authority in the day of death;
 kai ouk estin apostolē en hēmera tō polemō,
 and there is no discharge the day of battle;
 kai ou diasōsei asebeia ton par' autēs.
 and shall not preserve impiety the thing for her.

אָנֹכִי־בְּרוֹחַ נְצָרָא־בְּרוֹחַ עַזְּבָנָה
 ט אֶת־כָּל־זֶה רְאִיתִי וְנָתָן אֶת־לְבִי לְכָל־מְשֻׁבָּח
 אֲשֶׁר נָעַשָּׂה תְּחִתַּת הַשָּׁמֶן עַת אֲשֶׁר שְׁלָט הָאָדָם בָּאָדָם לְרֹעַ לוֹ:

9. 'eth-kal-zeh ra'ithi w'nathon 'eth-libi l'kal-ma`aseh
 'asher na`asah tachath hashamesh `eth 'asher shalat ha'adam b'adam l'ra` lo.

Ecc8:9 All this I have seen and applied my heart to every deed that has been done
 under the sun: there is a time in which a man rules over a man for the evil to him.

<9> καὶ σὺν πᾶν τοῦτο εἶδον καὶ ἔδωκα τὴν καρδίαν μου εἰς πᾶν ποίημα,
 ὃ πεποίηται ὑπὸ τὸν ἥλιον, τὰ ὅσα ἔξουσιάσατο ὃ ἄνθρωπος
 ἐν ἄνθρωπῳ τοῦ κακῶσαι αὐτόν·

9 kai syn pan touto eidon kai edōka tēn kardian mou eis pan poiēma,
 And with all this I beheld; and I gave my heart to every action
 ho pepoiētai hypo ton hēlion, ta hosa exousiasato
 which I had done under the sun; the things, as much as exercises authority
 ho anthrōpos en anthrōpō tou kakōsai auton;
 a man to a man to inflict evil on him.

וְבָכַן רָאִיתִי רֹשְׁעִים קָבָרִים וּבָאוּ וּמִמְקֻומָם קָדוֹשׁ יְהִלְכֵבּוּ
 וַיַּשְׂתַּחֲפֹחוּ בְּעִיר אֲשֶׁר בָּנָּעָשָׂו גַּמְ-זָה חָבֵל:

10. ub'ken ra'ithi r'sha`im q'burim waba'u umim'qom qadosh y'haleku
w'yish'tak'chu ba`ir 'asher ken-`asu gam-zeh habel.

Ecc8:10 And so I have seen the wicked buried, and they came
 and went from the place of the holy, and they were forgotten in the city
 where they did thus. This is also vanity.

<10> καὶ τότε εἰδον ἀσεβεῖς εἰς τάφους εἰσαχθέντας,
 καὶ ἐκ τόπου ἁγίου ἐπορεύθησαν καὶ ἐπηγέθησαν ἐν τῇ πόλει,
 ὅτι οὕτως ἐποίησαν. καί γε τοῦτο ματαιότης.

10 kai tote eidon asebeis eis taphous eisachthentas,
 And then I beheld the impious into the tombs being brought,
 kai ek topou hagiou eporeuthēsan kai epēnethēsan en tē polei,
 and from out of the holy place; and they went and were praised in the city,
 hoti houtōs epoiēsan. kai ge touto mataiotēs.
 because they did thus. And indeed this is folly.

רַא אֲשֶׁר אִין-גַּעַשְׁתָּה פְּתַגְמָם מִעְשָׂה הַרְעָה מִהְרָה:
 עַל-כֵּן מְלִיאָ לִבְ בְּנֵי-הָאָדָם בְּהָם לְעַשׂוֹת רָעָ:

11. 'asher 'eyn-na `asah phith'gam ma`aseh hara`ah m'herah
`al-ken male' leb b'ney-ha'adam bahem la`asoth ra`.

Ecc8:11 Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed quickly,
 therefore the heart of the sons of men among them are given fully to do evil.

<11> ὅτι οὐκ ἔστιν γινομένη ἀντίρρησις ἀπὸ τῶν ποιούντων τὸ πονηρὸν ταχύ·
 διὰ τοῦτο ἐπληροφορήθη καρδία σὺνών τοῦ ἀνθρώπου
 ἐν αὐτοῖς τοῦ ποιῆσαι τὸ πονηρόν.

11 hoti ouk estin ginomenē antirrēsis apo tōn poiountōn to ponēron tachy;
 Because there is no existing objection for the ones doing evil quickly,
 dia touto eplērophorēthē kardia huiōn tou anthrōpou
 therefore by this have full assurance the heart of the sons of man
 en autois tou poiēsai to ponēron.

in themselves to do evil.

יב אֲשֶׁר חָטָא עַשְׂתָּה רָע מֵאת וּמִאָרִיךְ לוֹ כִּי גַם־יֹדַע אָנִי
אֲשֶׁר יְהִי־טוֹב לִירְאֵי הָאֱלֹהִים אֲשֶׁר יִרְאֵי מִלְּפָנָיו:

12. 'asher chote' `oseh ra` m'ath uma'arik lo ki gam-yode`a 'ani
'asher yih'yeh-tob l'ir'ay ha'Elohim 'asher yir'u mil'phanayu.

Ecc8:12 Though a sinner does evil a hundred times and his days prolonged to him,
yet surely I know that it shall be well for those who fear the Elohim, who fear before Him.

<12> ὃς ἥμαρτεν, ἐποίησεν τὸ πονηρὸν ἀπὸ τότε καὶ ἀπὸ μακρότητος αὐτῷ.
ὅτι καὶ γε γινώσκω ἐγὼ ὅτι ἔσται ἀγαθὸν τοῦς φοβουμένους τὸν θεόν,
ὅπως φοβῶνται ἀπὸ προσώπου αὐτοῦ·

12 hos hēmartēn, epoiēsen to ponēron apo tote kai apo makrotētos autō;
The one who sinned did evil from then, and of their duration.

hoti kai ge ginōskō egō hoti estai agathon tois phoboumenois ton theon,
For also even I know that there is good to the ones fearing the Elohim,
hopōs phobontai apo prosōpou autou;
so that they should fear from in front of him.

יג וְטוֹב לְאָדִיכָה לְרַשָׁע וּלְאָדִיאָרִיךְ יְמִים פְּצִלָּה
אֲשֶׁר אִרְגְּנֵנוּ יְרָא מִלְּפָנֵי אֱלֹהִים:

13. w'tob lo'-yih'yeh larasha` w'lo'-ya'ari'k yamim katsel
'asher 'eynenu yare' miliph'ney 'Elohim.

Ecc8:13 But it shall not be well for the evil man and he shall not lengthen his days
like a shadow, because he does not fear before Elohim.

<13> καὶ ἀγαθὸν οὐκ ἔσται τῷ ἀσεβεῖ, καὶ οὐ μακρυνεῖ ἡμέρας ἐν σκιᾷ
ὅς οὐκ ἔστιν φοβούμενος ἀπὸ προσώπου τοῦ θεοῦ.

13 kai agathon ouk estai tō asebei,
But good it shall not be to the impious,

kai ou makrynei hēmeras en skia
and he shall not prolong his days which are as a shadow;
hos ouk estin phoboumenos apo prosōpou tou theou.
for he is not fearing from before Elohim.

יד יְשַׁחַבְל אֲשֶׁר בְּעַשְׂתָּה עַל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר יְשַׁצְּדִיקִים
עַל־יְהִי־טוֹב לְאָדִיכָה לְרַשָׁע וּלְאָדִיאָרִיךְ יְמִים פְּצִלָּה:

kai auto symproestai autō en mochthō autou hēmeras zōēs autou,
 And it shall adhere to him in his effort all the days of his life,
 hosas edōken autō ho theos hypo ton hēlion.
 as gave to him the Elohim under the sun.

עַתָּה כִּי אָשֵׁר נְתָתִי אֶת־לְבִי לְדֹעַת חֲכָמָה
 וְלֹרְאֹת אֶת־הָעָגָן אֲשֶׁר נָעַשָּׂה עַל־הָאָרֶץ
 כִּי גַם בַּיּוֹם וּבַלְילָה שָׁנָה בְּעִירָנוּ אִינְנוּ רָאָה:

16. ka'asher nathati 'eth-libi lada`ath chak'mah w'lir'oth 'eth-ha'in'yan
 'asher na`asah `al-ha'arets ki gam bayom ubalay'lah shenah b`eynayu 'eynenu ro'eh.

Ecc8:16 When I gave my heart to know wisdom and to see the business
 that is done on the earth: (for even by day or by night he does not see sleep in his eyes),

<16> 'Ev oīs ēdōka tēn kardian mou tou gnōnai sophian
 kaīl toū īmēn tōn pērīstāpasmōn tōn pēpōiηmēnōn ēpīl tēs γῆs,
 ὅτι καὶ γε ἐν ἡμέρᾳ καὶ ἐν νυκτὶ ὑπνον ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖς αὐτοῦ οὐκ ἔστιν βλέπων,

16 En hois edōka tēn kardian mou tou gnōnai sophian

Whereupon I gave my heart to know wisdom,

kaītou idein ton perispasmon ton pepoiēmenon epi tēs gēs,
 and to behold the distraction being done upon the earth.

hoti kai ge en hēmerā kai en nykti hypnon en ophthalmois autou ouk estin blepōn,
 For also at day and at night sleep with his eyes a person is not seeing.

וְרָאָתִי אֶת־כָּל־מְعַשָּׂה הָאֱלֹהִים כִּי לֹא יוּכֶל הָאָדָם
 לְמִצְוָא אֶת־הַמְּעַשָּׂה אֲשֶׁר נָעַשָּׂה תְּחִתְהַשְּׁמֶשׁ בְּשֵׁל
 אֲשֶׁר יַעֲמֶל הָאָדָם לְבַקֵּשׁ וְלֹא יִמְצָא
 וְגַם אִם־יָאָמַר הַחֲכָם לְדֹעַת לֹא יוּכֶל לִמְצָא:

17. w'ra'ithi 'eth-kal-ma`aseh ha'Elohim ki lo' yukal ha'adam lim'tso' 'eth-hama`aseh
 'asher na`asah thachath-hashe mesh b'shel 'asher ya`amol ha'adam l'baqesh
 w'lo' yim'tsa' w'gam 'im-yo'mar hechakam lada`ath lo' yukal lim'tso'.

Ecc8:17 then I saw every work of the Elohim, that a man shall not be able to find the work
 that is done under the sun; because though man labors to seek it out, he shall not find it;
 and even if the wise man speaks of knowing it, yet he shall not be able to find it.

<17> καὶ εἶδον σὺν πάντα τὰ ποιήματα τοῦ θεοῦ, ὅτι οὐ δυνήσεται ἄνθρωπος

τοῦ εὑρεῖν σὺν τῷ ποίημα τῷ πεποιημένον ὑπὸ τὸν ἥλιον·
ὅσα ἂν μοχθήσῃ ὁ ἄνθρωπος τοῦ ζητῆσαι, καὶ οὐχ εὑρήσει·
καὶ γε ὅσα ἂν εἴπῃ ὁ σοφὸς τοῦ γνῶναι, οὐ δυνήσεται τοῦ εὑρεῖν.

17 kai eidon syn panta ta poiēmata tou theou, hoti ou dynēsetai anthrōpos
And I beheld with all the actions of the Elohim, that shall not be able man
tou heurein syn to poiēma to pepoiēmenon hypo ton hēlion;
to find out the action being done under the sun.
hosa an mochthēsē ho anthrōpos tou zētēsai, kai ouch heurēsei;
As long as should make an effort man to seek, even he shall not find it.
kai ge hosha an eipē ho sophos tou gnōnai,
And indeed, as long as should speak the wise to know it,
ou dynēsetai tou heurein.
he shall not be able to find it.