

# Sepher Koheleth (Ecclesiastes)

## Chapter 1

Yom Kippur Reading Schedule - Ecc 1-12

א דבְּרֵי קֹהֶלֶת בֶּן-דָּוִד מֶלֶךְ בִּירוּשָׁלַם:

1. dib'rey qoheleth ben-Dawid melek biY'rushalam.

**Ecc1:1** The words of the Preacher, the son of Dawid, king in Yerushalam.

ב הָבֵל הַבָּלִים אָמַר קֹהֶלֶת הָבֵל הַבָּלִים הַכֹּל הָבֵל:

2. habel habalim 'amar qoheleth habel habalim hokol habel.

**Ecc1:2** Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

ג מַה-יִתְרוֹן לָאָדָם בְּכָל-עֲמָלוֹ שְׂיַעֲמַל תַּחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ:

3. mah-yith'ron la'adam b'kal-'amalo sheya'amol tachath hashamesh.

**Ecc1:3** What advantage does man have in all his work which he does under the sun?

ד דֹּר הֹלֵךְ וְדֹר בָּא וְהָאָרֶץ לְעוֹלָם עֹמֶדֶת:

4. dor holek w'dor ba' w'ha'arets l'olam 'omadeth.

**Ecc1:4** A generation goes and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever.

ה הַזֶּרֶחַ הַשָּׁמֶשׁ יָבֹא הַשָּׁמֶשׁ וְאֵל-מְקוֹמוֹ שׁוֹאֵף זֶרֶחַ הוּא שָׁם:

5. w'zarach hashemesh uba' hashamesh w'el-m'qomo sho'eph zoreach hu' sham.

**Ecc1:5** The sun also rises and the sun goes down; and hastens to its place; it rises there again.

ו הַזֶּרֶחַ אֵל-הָרֹם וְסוֹבֵב אֶל-צָפוֹן סוֹבֵב סָבִב הַזֶּרֶחַ  
וְעַל-סְבִיבוֹתָיו שָׁב הָרֹם:

6. holek 'el-darom w'sobeb 'el-tsaphon sobeb sobeb holek haruach  
w'al-s'bibothayu shab haruach.

**Ecc1:6** The wind goes toward the south, and it turns around unto the north; turning and turning; and the wind returns on its circuits.

ז כָּל-הַנְּחָלִים הֹלְכִים אֶל-הַיָּם וְהַיָּם אֵינָנוּ מָלֵא אֶל-מְקוֹם  
שֶׁהַנְּחָלִים הֹלְכִים שָׁם הֵם שֹׁבִים לָלֶכֶת:

7. kal-han'chalim hol'kim 'el-hayam w'hayam 'eynenu male' 'el-m'qom  
shehan'chalim hol'kim sham hem shabim lalaketh.

**Ecc1:7** All the rivers flow into the sea, yet the sea is not full. To the place where the rivers flow, there they return to go again.

ח כָּל-הַדְּבָרִים יִגְעִים לֹא-יִוָּכַל אִישׁ לְדַבֵּר  
לֹא-תִשָּׁבַע עֵין לְרֹאוֹת וְלֹא-תִמָּלֵא אֵזֶן מִשְׁמַע:

8. **kal-had'barim y'ge'im lo'-yukal 'ish l'daber lo'-this'ba`'ayin lir'oth w'lo'-thimale' 'ozen mish'mo`a.**

**Ecc1:8** All things are wearisome; man is not able to tell it.  
The eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor is the ear filled with hearing.

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ט מה-שְׁהָיָה הוּא שְׁיִהְיֶה וּמֵה-שֶׁנַּעֲשֶׂה הוּא שֶׁיַּעֲשֶׂה  
וְאֵין כָּל-חֶדֶשׁ תַּחַת הַשָּׁמַיִם:

9. **mah-shehayah hu' sheyih'yeh umah-shena`asah hu' sheye`aseh w'eyn kal-chadash tachath hashamesh.**

**Ecc1:9** That which has been is that which shall be, and that which has been done, is that which shall be done. So there is no any new thing under the sun.

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י יֵשׁ דְּבַר שֶׁיֵּאמַר רָאֵה-זֶה חֶדֶשׁ הוּא כְּבָר הָיָה לְעֹלָמִים  
אֲשֶׁר הָיָה מִלְּפָנָיו:

10. **yesh dabar sheyo'mar r'eh-zeh chadash hu' k'bar hayah l'`olamim 'asher hayah mil'phanenu.**

**Ecc1:10** Is there anything of which one might say, see this, it is new?  
It has been already for ages which were before us.

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יא אֵין זְכוֹרֹן לְרֵאשִׁימִים וְגַם לְאַחֲרִימִים  
שֶׁיִּהְיוּ לֹא-יִהְיֶה לָהֶם זְכוֹרֹן עִם שֶׁיִּהְיוּ לְאַחֲרָנָה: פ

11. **'eyn zik'ron l'ari'shonim w'gam la'acharonim sheyih'yu lo'-yih'yeh lahem zikaron `im sheyih'yu la'acharonah.**

**Ecc1:11** There is no remembrance of earlier things; and also of the later things which shall occur, there shall be for them no remembrance among those who shall come afterwards.

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יב אֲנִי קֹהֵלֶת הָיִיתִי מֶלֶךְ עַל-יִשְׂרָאֵל בִּירוּשָׁלַם:

12. **'ani qohleth hayithi melek `al-Yis'ra'El biY'rushalam.**

**Ecc1:12** I, the Preacher, have been king over Yisra'El in Yerushalam.

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יג וְנָתַתִּי אֶת-לִבִּי לְדְרוֹשׁ וּלְתוֹר בַּחֲכָמָה עַל כָּל-אֲשֶׁר תַּחַת  
נִעֲשֶׂה הַשָּׁמַיִם הוּא עֲנִין רָע נָתַן אֱלֹהִים לְבָנֵי הָאָדָם לְעֲנוּת בּוֹ:

13. **w'nathati 'eth-libi lid'rosh w'lathur bachak'mah `al kal-'asher na`asah tachath hashamayim hu' `in'yan ra` nathan 'Elohim lib'ney ha'adam la`anoth bo.**

**Ecc1:13** And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all that has been done under the heavens. It is a grievous task which Elohim has given to the sons of men to be humbled by it.

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יד רָאִיתִי אֶת-כָּל-הַמַּעֲשִׂים שֶׁנַּעֲשִׂי תַּחַת הַשָּׁמַיִם  
וְהִנֵּה כָּל הַכֹּל וְרַעוּת רוּחַ:

14. ra'ithi 'eth-kal-hama`asim shena`asu tachath hashamesh  
w'hinneh hakol hebel ur'uth ruach.

**Ecc1:14** I have seen all the works which have been done under the sun,  
and behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit.

טו מַעֲוֹת לֹא-יִוָּכַל לְתַקֵּן וְחֶסְרוֹן לֹא-יִוָּכַל לְהַמָּנוֹת:

15. m'uuath lo'-yukal lith'qon w'ches'ron lo'-yukal l'himanoth.

**Ecc1:15** What is crooked cannot be straightened and what is lacking cannot be counted.

טז דִּבַּרְתִּי אֲנִי עִם-לִבִּי לֵאמֹר אֲנִי הִנֵּה הִגְדַּלְתִּי  
וְהוֹסַפְתִּי חֲכָמָה עַל כָּל-אֲשֶׁר-הָיָה לִפְנֵי עַל-יְרוּשָׁלַם  
וּלְבִי רָאָה חֲרִיבָה חֲכָמָה וְדַעַת:

16. dibar'ti 'ani `im-libi le'mor 'ani hinneh hig'dal'ti  
w'hosaph'ti chak'mah `al kal-'asher-hayah l'phanay `al-Y'rushalam  
w'libi ra'ah har'beh chak'mah wada`ath.

**Ecc1:16** I spoke with my heart, saying, Behold, I have magnified  
and increased wisdom over all who were over Yerushalam before me;  
and my heart has seen much wealth of wisdom and knowledge.

יז וְאַתָּנָה לִבִּי לָדַעַת חֲכָמָה וְדַעַת הוֹלָלוֹת  
וְשִׁכְלוֹת יָדַעְתִּי שֶׁגַם-זֶה הוּא רַעְיוֹן רוּחַ:

17. wa'et'nah libi lada`ath chak'mah w'da`ath holeloth  
w'sik'luth yada'ti shegam-zeh hu' ra'yon ruach.

**Ecc1:17** And I gave my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly;  
I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit.

יח כִּי בָרַב חֲכָמָה רַב-כָּעַס וַיּוֹסִיף דַּעַת יוֹסִיף מִכְאוֹב:

18. ki b'rob chak'mah rab-ka`as w'yosiph da`ath yosiph mak'ob.

**Ecc1:18** Because in much wisdom there is much grief,  
and he that increases knowledge increases sorrow.

## Chapter 2

א אָמַרְתִּי אֲנִי בְּלִבִּי לִכְהַנָּא אֲנַסְכָּה בְּשִׂמְחָה  
וּרְאָה בְּטוֹב וְהִנֵּה גַם-הוּא הֶבֶל:

1. 'amar'ti 'ani b'libi l'kah-na' 'anas'kah b'sim'chah ur'eh b'tob  
w'hinneh gam-hu' habel.

**Ecc2:1** I said with my heart, Come now, I shall test you with mirth;  
therefore consider with good. And behold, it also is vanity.

ב בְּלִשְׁחֹק אָמַרְתִּי מְהוֹלָל וּלְשִׂמְחָה מַה-זֶּה עֲשֵׂה:

2. lis'choq 'amar'ti m'holal u'sim'chah mah-zoh `osah.

**Ecc2:2** I said of laughter, It is madness, and of mirth, What does it accomplish?

גַּתְרִתִּי בְּלִבִּי לַמְּשֹׁךְ בֵּינִן אֶת־בְּשָׂרִי וְלִבִּי נָהָג בַּחֲכָמָה  
וְלֹאֲחֹז בְּסִכְלוֹת עַד אֲשֶׁר־אָרְאָה אֵי־זֶה טוֹב לִבְנֵי הָאָדָם  
אֲשֶׁר יַעֲשׂוּ תַּחַת הַשָּׁמַיִם מִסֵּפֶר יָמֵי חַיֵּיהֶם:

3. tar'ti b'libi lim'shok bayayin 'eth-b'sari w'libi noheg bachak'mah  
w'le'echoz b'sik'luth `ad 'asher-'er'eh 'ey-zeh tob lib'ney ha'adam  
'asher ya'asu tachath hashamayim mis'par y'mey chayeyhem.

**Ecc2:3** I sought in my heart how to stimulate my body with wine, yet leading my heart with wisdom, and to lay hold of folly, until I might see where that good was for the sons of men, which they should do under the heavens the number of days of their lives.

ד הִגְדַּלְתִּי מַעֲשֵׂי בְנִיתִי לִי בָתִּים נְטַעְתִּי לִי פְרָמִים:

4. hig'dal'ti ma'asay banithi li batim nata'ti li k'ramim.

**Ecc2:4** I enlarged my works: I built houses for myself, I planted vineyards for myself;

ה עָשִׂיתִי לִי גִנּוֹת וּפְרָדְסִים וְנְטַעְתִּי בָהֶם עֵץ כָּל־פֶּרִי:

5. `asithi li ganoth uphar'desim w'nata'ti bahem `ets kal-peri.

**Ecc2:5** I made gardens and parks for myself and I planted in them of all kinds of fruits;

ו עָשִׂיתִי לִי בְּרִכוֹת מָיִם לְהַשְׁקוֹת מֵהֶם יַעַר צוֹמֵחַ עֵצִים:

6. `asithi li b'rekoth mayim l'hash'qoth mehem ya`ar tsomeach `etsim.

**Ecc2:6** I made pools of water for myself, to water from them the forest shooting forth trees.

ז קָנִיתִי עֲבָדִים וַשְׁפָּחוֹת וּבְנֵי־בֵית הָיָה לִי גַם מִקְנֶה בָּקָר  
וְצֹאֵן הֶרְבֵּה הָיָה לִי מִכָּל נִשְׁחָיו לְפָנַי בִּירוּשָׁלָם:

7. qanithi `abadim u'h'phachoth ub'ney-bayith hayah li gam miq'neh baqar  
watso'n har'beh hayah li mikol shehayu l'phanay biY'rushalam.

**Ecc2:7** I bought servants and maidens and I had sons of the house for me; also I had great possessions of a herd and a flock for me above all that were in Yerushalam before me.

ח כָּנַסְתִּי לִי גַם־כֶּסֶף וְזָהָב וּסְגֻלַּת מְלָכִים  
וְהַמְדִּינוֹת עָשִׂיתִי לִי נָשִׁים וְנָשְׂרוֹת  
וְתַעֲנוּגוֹת בְּנֵי הָאָדָם שָׂדָה וְנִשְׂדוֹת:

8. kanas'ti li gam-keseeph w'zahab us'gulath m'lakim w'ham'dinoth `asithi li sharim  
w'sharoth w'tha`anugoth b'ney ha'adam shidah w'shidoth.

**Ecc2:8** Also, I collected for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces. I provided for myself male singers and female singers and the delights of the sons of men, a concubine and the concubines.

טוֹגַדְלָתִי וְהוֹסַפְתִּי מִכָּל שְׁהָיָה לִפְנֵי  
בִּירוּשָׁלַם אֵף חֻכְמָתִי עֲמָדָה לִי:

9. w'gadal'ti w'hosaph'ti mikol shehayah l'phanay  
biY'rushalam 'aph chak'mathi `am'dah li.

**Ecc2:9** Then I was great and increased more than all that were before me in Yerushalam.  
My wisdom also stood by me.

י וְכָל אֲשֶׁר שָׁאֻלוּ עֵינַי לֹא אֶצְלָתִי מֵהֶם  
לֹא-מִנְעָתִי אֶת-לְבִי מִכָּל-שְׂמִיחָה כִּי-לְבִי שָׂמַח  
מִכָּל-עֲמָלִי וְזֶה-הָיָה חֻלְקִי מִכָּל-עֲמָלִי:

10. w'kol 'asher sha'alu `eynay lo' 'atsal'ti mehem lo'-mana'ti 'eth-libi  
mikal-sim'chah ki-libi sameach mikal-`amali w'zeh-hayahchel'qi mikal-`amali.

**Ecc2:10** All that my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I did not withhold my heart  
from any pleasure, for my heart was pleased because of all my labor  
and this was my reward for all my labor.

י וּפָנִיתִי אֲנִי בְּכָל-מַעֲשֵׂי שָׁעָשׂוּ יָדַי וּבְעֵמָל שָׁעַמְלָתִי לַעֲשׂוֹת  
וְהִנֵּה כָּל הַכֹּל וּרְעוֹת רוּחַ וְאֵין יִתְרוֹן תַּחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ:

11. uphanithi 'ani b'kal-ma`asay she`asu yaday ube`amal she`amal'tila`asoth  
w'hinneh hakol hebel ur'uth ruach w'eyn yith'ron tachath hashamesh.

**Ecc2:11** Then I looked on all my works that my hands had done and on the labor  
which I had labored, and behold all was vanity and vexation of spirit  
and there was no profit under the sun.

י וּפָנִיתִי אֲנִי לִרְאוֹת חֻכְמָה וְהוֹלָלוֹת וְסִכְלוֹת  
כִּי מָה הָאָדָם שִׁיבּוֹא אַחֲרֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ אֵת אֲשֶׁר-כָּבַר עָשׂוּהוּ:

12. uphanithi 'ani lir'oth chak'mah w'holeloth w'sik'luth  
ki meh ha'adam sheyabo' 'acharey hamelek 'eth 'asher-k'bar `asuhu.

**Ecc2:12** So I turned to behold wisdom, madness and folly;  
for what shall the man do who shall come after the king when it has already been done?

י ג וְרָאִיתִי אֲנִי שֵׁשׁ יִתְרוֹן לַחֻכְמָה מִן-הַסִּכְלוֹת  
כִּי יִתְרוֹן הָאוֹר מִן-הַחֹשֶׁךְ:

13. w'ra'ithi 'ani sheyesh yith'ron lachak'mah min-hasik'luth  
kith'ron ha'or min-hachoshek.

**Ecc2:13** Then I saw that there is advantage to wisdom above folly,  
as far as light has advantage above darkness.

י ד הַחֹכֶם עֵינָיו בְּרֹאשׁוֹ וְהַסִּיל בַּחֹשֶׁךְ הוֹלֵךְ

וידעתי גם-אני שמקרה אחד יקרה את-כלם:

14. **hechakam`eynayu b'ro'sho w'hak'sil bachoshek holek**  
**w'yada'ti gam-'ani shemiq'reh 'echad yiq'reh 'eth-kulam.**

**Ecc2:14** 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.

טו ואמרתי אני בלבי במקרה הכסיל גם-אני יקרני  
ולמה חכמתי אני אז יותר ודברתי בלבי שגם-זה הבל:

15. **w'amar'ti 'ani b'libi b'miq'reh hak'sil gam-'ani yiq'reni**  
**w'lamah chakam'ti 'ani 'az yother w'dibar'ti b'libi shegam-zeh habel.**

**Ecc2:15** Then I said in my heart, As it happens to the fool, so it shall happen even to me.  
Why was I then more wise? Then I said in my heart, that this too is vanity.

טז כי אין זכרון לחכם עם-הכסיל לעולם בנשכר הימים  
הבאים הכל נשכח ואיך ימות החכם עם-הכסיל:

16. **ki 'eyn zik'ron lechakam`im-hak'sil l'olam b'shek'bar hayamim haba'im hakol**  
**nish'kach w'eyak yamuth hechakam`im-hak'sil.**

**Ecc2:16** For there is no remembrance of the wise man than of the fool for ever;  
In that already the coming days all shall be forgotten.  
And how the wise man die above the fool?

יז ושאנאתי את-החיים כי רע עלי המעשה שנעשה תחת השמש  
כי-הכל הבל ורעות רוח:

17. **w'sane'thi 'eth-hachayim ki ra`alay hama`aseh shena`asah tachath hashamesh**  
**ki-hakol hebel ur'uth ruach.**

**Ecc2:17** So I hated life, for the work which had been done  
under the sun was grievous to me; because everything is vanity and vexation of spirit.

יח ושאנאתי אני את-כל-עמלי שאני עמל תחת השמש  
שאניחנו לאדם שיהיה אחרי:

18. **w'sane'thi 'ani 'eth-kal-'amali she'ani`amel tachath hashamesh**  
**she'anichenu la'adam sheyih'yeh 'acharay.**

**Ecc2:18** Thus I hated all my labor for which I had labored under the sun,  
because I should leave it to the man who shall come after me.

יט ומי יודע החכם יהיה או סכל וינשלט בכל-עמלי שעמלתי  
ושחכמתי תחת השמש גם-זה הבל:

19. **umi yode`a hechakam yih'yeh 'o sakal w'yish'lat b'kal-'amali she`amal'ti**  
**w'shechakam'ti tachath hashamesh gam-zeh habel.**

**Ecc2:19** And who knows whether he shall be a wise man or a fool?  
Yet he shall have control over all my labor for which I have labored



and for which I acted wisely under the sun. This is also vanity.

כּוֹסְבוֹתַי אָנִי לִיֹאֵשׁ אֶת-לִבִּי עַל כָּל-הָעֵמֶל  
שָׁעַמְלָתִי תַחַת הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ:

20. w'sabothi 'ani l'ya'esh 'eth-libi `al kal-he`amal she`amal'ti tachath hashamesh.

**Ecc2:20** Therefore I turned about to cause my heart to despair of all my labor for which I had labored under the sun.

כּאֲכִי-יֵשׁ אָדָם שָׁעַמְלוֹ בְּחָכְמָה וּבִדְעָת וּבְכִשְׁרוֹן  
וּלְאָדָם שֶׁלֹא עָמַל-בּוֹ יִתְּנֶנּוּ חֶלְקוֹ גַּם-זֶה הֶבֶל וְרָעָה רַבָּה:

21. ki-yesh 'adam she`amalo b'chak'mah ub'da'ath ub'kish'ron  
ul'adam shelo' `amal-bo yit'nenu chel'qo gam-zeh hebel w'ra'ah rabbah.

**Ecc2:21** For there is a man who has labored with wisdom, with knowledge and with equity; yet to a man that has not labored with it, he shall give it for his share. This also is vanity and a great evil.

כּבִּי מֶה-הִזָּה לְאָדָם בְּכָל-עֵמֶלוֹ  
וּבְרַעְיוֹן לְבּוֹ שֶׁהוּא עָמַל תַּחַת הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ:

22. ki meh-hoeh la'adam b'kal-`amalo  
ub'ra'yon libo shehu'`amel tachath hashamesh.

**Ecc2:22** For what is there for a man of all his labor and of the vexation of his heart which he labors under the sun?

כּגִּבִּי כָל-יָמָיו מִכְּאֻבִּים  
וְכַעַס עֲנִינּוֹ גַם-בְּלִילָה לֹא-שָׁכַב לְבּוֹ גַּם-זֶה הֶבֶל הוּא:

23. ki kal-yamayu mak'obim  
waka'as `in'yano gam-balay'lah lo'-shakab libo gam-zeh hebel hu'.

**Ecc2:23** For all his days are sufferings and his labor grief; his heart does not even rest at night. This also is vanity.

כּדֵּאֵין-טוֹב בְּאָדָם שִׁיאָכַל וְשָׁתָה וְהִרְאָה אֶת-נַפְשׁוֹ טוֹב  
בְּעֵמֶלוֹ גַּם-זֶה רָאִיתִי אָנִי כִּי מִיַּד הָאֱלֹהִים הִיא:

24. 'eyn-tob ba'adam sheyo'kal w'shathah w'her'ah 'eth-naph'sho tob ba`amalo  
gam-zoh ra'ithi 'ani ki miyad ha'Elohim hi'.

**Ecc2:24** There is nothing better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labor. This also I saw, that it was from the hand of the Elohim.

כּהִכִּי מִי יֹאכַל וּמִי יַחֲוֹשׁ חוּץ מִמֶּנִּי:

25. ki mi yo'kal umi yachush chuts mimeni.

**Ecc2:25** For who can eat and who can enjoy apart from me?

כּוֹפִי לְאָדָם שְׁטוֹב לְפָנָיו נָתַן חֵכְמָה  
וְדַעַת וְשִׁמְחָה וְלַחֹטֵא נָתַן עֲגִיז לְאִסּוּף  
וְלַכְנוּס לָתֵת לְטוֹב לְפָנָי הָאֱלֹהִים גַּם־זֶה הֶבֶל וְרַעֲיוֹת רוּחַ:

26. **ki l'adam shetob l'phanayu nathan chak'mah**  
**w'da'ath w'sim'chah w'lachote' nathan in'yan le'esoph**  
**w'lik'nos latheth l'tob liph'ney ha'Elohim gam-zeh hebel ur'uth ruach.**

**Ecc2:26** For to a man who is good in His sight He has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, but to the sinner He has given the task of gathering and collecting so that he may give to one who is good in the sight of the Elohim. This also is vanity and vexation of spirit.

### Chapter 3

א לְכֹל זְמַן וְעֵת לְכָל־חֶפֶץ תַּחַת הַשָּׁמַיִם: ס

1. **lakol z'man w'eth l'kal-chephets tachath hashamayim.**

**Ecc3:1** There is an appointed time for everything.  
And there is a time for every event under the heavens.

ב עֵת לִלְדֹת וְעֵת לָמוּת עֵת לְטַעַת וְעֵת לְעָקוֹר נְטוּעִי:

2. **eth laledeth w'eth lamuth eth lata'ath w'eth la'aqor natu'a.**

**Ecc3:2** A time to give birth and a time to die;  
a time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted.

ג עֵת לְהָרוֹג וְעֵת לְרַפֹּא עֵת לְפָרוֹץ וְעֵת לִבְנוֹת:

3. **eth laharog w'eth lir'po' eth liph'rots w'eth lib'noth.**

**Ecc3:3** A time to kill and a time to heal; a time to tear down and a time to build up.

ד עֵת לִבְכּוֹת וְעֵת לְשָׂחֹק עֵת סָפוֹד וְעֵת רִקּוֹד:

4. **eth lib'both w'eth lis'choq eth s'phod w'eth r'qod.**

**Ecc3:4** A time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance.

ה עֵת לְהַשְׁלִיךְ אֲבָנִים וְעֵת כְּנוּס אֲבָנִים עֵת לַחֲבוֹק  
וְעֵת לְרַחֵק מִחֶבֶק:

5. **eth l'hash'lik abanim w'eth k'nos abanim eth lachaboq**  
**w'eth lir'choq mechabeq.**

**Ecc3:5** A time to throw stones and a time to gather stones;  
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing.

ו עֵת לְבַקֵּשׁ וְעֵת לֹאבֹד עֵת לְשָׁמֹר וְעֵת לְהַשְׁלִיךְ:

6. **eth l'baqesh w'eth l'abed eth lish'mor w'eth l'hash'lik.**

**Ecc3:6** A time to seek and a time to lose; A time to keep and a time to cast away.



זַעַת לְקַרֹּעַ וְזַעַת לְתַפּוֹר עֵת לַחֲשׂוֹת וְזַעַת לְדַבֵּר:

7. `eth liq'ro`a w'`eth lith'por `eth lachashoth w'`eth l'daber.

**Ecc3:7** A time to tear apart and a time to sew together;  
a time to kept silence and a time to speak.

חַעַת לְאַהֲבָה וְזַעַת לְשֹׂנְאָה עֵת מִלְחָמָה וְזַעַת שְׁלוֹמִים:

8. `eth le'ehob w'`eth lis'no' `eth mil'chamah w'`eth shalom.

**Ecc3:8** A time to love and a time to hate; a time of war and a time of peace.

ט מַה־יִּתְרוֹן הָעוֹשֶׂה בְּאֲשֶׁר הוּא עֹמֵל:

9. mah-yith'ron ha`oseh ba'asher hu' `amel.

**Ecc3:9** What profit has he who works have in that in which he labors?

י רָאִיתִי אֶת־הָעֵנָן אֲשֶׁר נָתַן אֱלֹהִים לְבְנֵי הָאָדָם לְעֲנוּת בּוֹ:

10. ra'ithi 'eth-ha'in'yan 'asher nathan 'Elohim lib'ney ha'adam la`anoth bo.

**Ecc3:10** I have seen the task which Elohim has given to the sons of men  
to be humbled by it.

יֵאָת־הַכֹּל עֲשֶׂה יָפָה בְּעֵתוֹ גַּם אֶת־הָעֹלָם נָתַן  
בְּלִבָּם מִבְּלִי אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יִמָּצֵא הָאָדָם אֶת־הַמַּעֲשֶׂה  
אֲשֶׁר־עֲשֶׂה הָאֱלֹהִים מֵרֵאשִׁית וְעַד־סוֹף:

11. 'eth-hakol `asah yapheh b'`ito gam 'eth-ha`olam nathan b'libam mib'li 'asher lo'-yim'tsa' ha'adam 'eth-hama`aseh 'asher-`asah ha'Elohim mero'sh w'ad-soph.

**Ecc3:11** He has made everything appropriate in its time.  
He has also set eternity in their heart, without which man shall not find out the work  
which the Elohim has done from the beginning even to the end.

יב יָדַעְתִּי כִּי אֵין טוֹב בָּם

כִּי אִם־לְשִׂמּוֹחַ וּלְעֲשׂוֹת טוֹב בְּחַיָּיו:

12. yada'ti ki 'eyn tob bam ki 'im-lis'moach w'la`asoth tob b'chayayu.

**Ecc3:12** I know that there is no good in them but to rejoice and to do good in his life;

יג וְגַם כָּל־הָאָדָם שָׂיֵאכֹל וְשָׂתָה

וְרָאָה טוֹב בְּכָל־עֲמָלוֹ מִתַּת אֱלֹהִים הִיא:

13. w'gam kal-ha'adam sheyo'kal w'shathah w'ra'ah tob b'kal-`amalo matath 'Elohim hi'.

**Ecc3:13** And also every man that should eat and drink,  
enjoy the good of all his labor, it is the gift of Elohim.

יִדְעֵתִי כִּי כָל־אֲשֶׁר יַעֲשֶׂה הָאֱלֹהִים הוּא יִהְיֶה  
לְעוֹלָם עָלָיו אֵין לְחוֹסִיף וּמִמֶּנּוּ אֵין לְגָרַע  
וְהָאֱלֹהִים עֹשֶׂה שְׂרָאוֹ מִלְּפָנָיו:

14. yada'ti ki kal-'asher ya'aseh ha'Elohim hu' yih'yeh l'olam alayu 'eyn l'hosiph  
umimenu 'eyn lig'ro'a w'ha'Elohim asah sheyir'u mil'phanayu.

Ecc3:14 I know that whatever the Elohim does, it shall be forever;  
there is nothing to add to it and there is nothing to take from it,  
and the Elohim does it so that men should fear before Him.

טו מֵהַשְׁתָּהּ כָּבֹד הוּא וְאֲשֶׁר לְהִיּוֹת כָּבֹד הָיָה  
וְהָאֱלֹהִים יִבְקֹשׁ אֶת־נִרְדָּף:

15. mah-shehayah k'bar hu' wa'asher lih'yoth k'bar hayah  
w'ha'Elohim y'baqesh 'eth-nir'daph.

Ecc3:15 That which has been already and that which shall be has already been,  
for the Elohim seeks what has passed by.

טז וְעוֹד רָאִיתִי תַּחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ מְקוֹם הַמִּשְׁפָּט שָׁמָּה הָרָשָׁע  
וּמְקוֹם הַצְדִּיק שָׁמָּה הָרָשָׁע:

16. w'od ra'ithi tachath hashamesh m'qom hamish'pat shamah haresha'  
um'qom hatsedeq shamah harasha'.

Ecc3:16 Furthermore, I have seen under the sun that in the place of justice  
there is wickedness and in the place of righteousness there is wickedness.

יז אָמַרְתִּי אָנִי בְּלִבִּי אֶת־הַצְדִּיק וְאֶת־הָרָשָׁע יִשְׁפֹּט הָאֱלֹהִים  
כִּי־עַתָּה לְכָל־חַפֵּץ וְעַל כָּל־הַמַּעֲשֵׂה שָׁם:

17. 'amar'ti 'ani b'libi 'eth-hatsadiq w'eth-harasha' yish'pot ha'Elohim  
ki-'eth l'kal-chephets w'al kal-hama'aseh sham.

Ecc3:17 I said in my heart, the Elohim shall judge the righteous and the wicked,  
for a time for every matter and for every deed is there.

יח אָמַרְתִּי אָנִי בְּלִבִּי עַל־הַבֵּרַת בְּנֵי הָאָדָם לְבָרָם הָאֱלֹהִים  
וְלִרְאוֹת שָׂהֵם־בְּהֵמָה הֵמָּה לָהֶם:

18. 'amar'ti 'ani b'libi al-dib'rath b'ney ha'adam l'baram ha'Elohim  
w'lir'oth sh'hem-b'hemah hemah lahem.

Ecc3:18 I said in my heart concerning the estate of the sons of men,  
the Elohim tests them so that they see for themselves that they are beasts.

יט כִּי מִקָּרָה בְּנֵי־הָאָדָם וּמִקָּרָה הַבְּהֵמָה  
וּמִקָּרָה אֶחָד לָהֶם כָּמוֹת זֶה כֵּן מוֹת זֶה וְרוּחַ אֶחָד לְכֹל

וּמוֹתֵר הָאָדָם מִן־הַבְּהֵמָה אֵין כִּי הַכֹּל הִבָּל:

19. **ki miq'reh b'ney-ha'adam umiq'reh hab'hemah**  
**umiq'reh 'echad lahem b'moth zeh ken moth zeh w'ruach 'echad lakol**  
**umothar ha'adam min-hab'hemah 'ayin ki hakol habel.**

**Ecc3:19** For that which happens to the sons of men and that which happens to beasts;  
even one thing that which happens to them: as one dies so dies the other;  
indeed, they have all one breath and there is no advantage for man over beast,  
for all is vanity.

כ הַכֹּל הוֹלֵךְ אֶל־מָקוֹם אֶחָד הַכֹּל הָיָה מִן־הָעָפָר  
וְהַכֹּל שָׁב אֶל־הָעָפָר:

20. **hakol holek 'el-maqom 'echad hakol hayah min-he'aphar**  
**w'hakol shab 'el-he'aphar.**

**Ecc3:20** All go to one place. All are of the dust and all return to the dust.

כֹּאֲמִי יוֹדֵעַ רוּחַ בְּנֵי הָאָדָם הָעֹלָה הִיא לְמַעַלָּה  
וְרוּחַ הַבְּהֵמָה הֵיכָדֶת הִיא לְמַטָּה לְאַרְצָא:

21. **mi yode'a ruach b'ney ha'adam ha'olah hi' l'ma'lah**  
**w'ruach hab'hemah hayoredeth hi' l'matah la'arets.**

**Ecc3:21** Who knows that the spirit of the sons of man that goes upward  
and the spirit of the beast that goes downward to the earth?

כִּבְיָהֲוֵיתִי כִּי אֵין טוֹב מֵאֲשֶׁר יִשְׂמַח הָאָדָם בְּמַעֲשָׁיו  
כִּי־חֵוָא חֶלְקוֹ כִּי מִי יְבִיאֵנּוּ לְרֵאוֹת בְּמָה שִׁיְהִיָּה אַחֲרָיו:

22. **w'ra'ithi ki 'eyn tob me'asher yis'mach ha'adam b'ma'asayu**  
**ki-hu' chel'qo ki mi y'bi'enu lir'oth b'meh sheyih'yeh 'acharay.**

**Ecc3:22** Therefore I have seen that nothing is better than that man should rejoice  
in his works, for that is his lot. For who shall bring him to see what shall occur after him?

## Chapter 4

א וְשָׁבֹתִי אָנִי וְאַרְאָה אֶת־כָּל־הָעֲשֻׁקִים  
אֲשֶׁר נַעֲשִׂים תַּחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ וְהִנֵּה הַמַּעַת הָעֲשֻׁקִים  
וְאֵין לָהֶם מְנַחֵם וּמִי־ד עֲשֻׁקֵיהֶם כֹּחַ וְאֵין לָהֶם מְנַחֵם:

1. **w'shab'ti 'ani wa'er'eh 'eth-kal-ha'ashuqim 'asher na'asim tachath hashamesh**  
**w'hinne dim'ath ha'ashuqim w'eyn lahem m'nachem umiyad 'osh'qeyhem koach**  
**w'eyn lahem m'nachem.**

**Ecc4:1** So I returned, and considered at all the oppressions that are done under the sun.  
And behold the tears who were oppressed. and that they had no comforter  
and at the hand of those oppressed them there was power, but they had no comforter.

ב וְשָׁבַח אָנִי אֶת־הַמֵּתִים שִׁכְבָּר מֵתוֹ מִן־הַחַיִּים

אֲשֶׁר הָמָּה חַיִּים עֲדָנָה:

2. w'shabeach 'ani 'eth-hamethim shek'bar methu min-hachayim  
'asher hemah chayim `adenah.

**Ecc4:2** So I praised the dead who are already dead more than the living  
which they are still living.

ג וטוב משניהם את אשר-עדן לא היה  
אשר לא-ראה את-המעשה הרע אשר בעשה תחת השמש:

3. w'tob mish'neyhem 'eth 'asher-`aden lo' hayah  
'asher lo'-ra'ah 'eth-hama`aseh hara` 'asher na`asah tachath hashamesh.

**Ecc4:3** Yes, better is he than both they, which has not yet been,  
who has not seen the evil work that is done under the sun.

ד וראיתי אני את-כל-עמל ואת כל-כשרון המעשה  
כי היא קנאת-איש מרעהו גם-זה הבל ורעות רוח:

4. w'ra'ithi 'ani 'eth-kal-`amal w'eth kal-kish'ron hama`aseh  
ki hi' qin'ath-'ish mere`ehu gam-zeh hebel ur'`uth ruach.

**Ecc4:4** I have seen that every labor and every success of the work,  
that it is the envy of a man against his neighbor. This also is vanity and vexation of spirit.

ה הכסיל חבק את-ידיו ואכל את-בשרו:

5. hak'sil chobeq 'eth-yadayu w'okel 'eth-b'saro.

**Ecc4:5** The fool folds his hands and consumes his own flesh.

ו טוב מלא כף נחת ממלא חפנים עמל ורעות רוח:

6. tob m'lo' kaph nachath mim'lo' chaph'nayim `amal ur'`uth ruach.

**Ecc4:6** Better is one handful of quietness than both hands full of labor  
and vexation of spirit.

ז ושבתי אני וראה הבל תחת השמש:

7. w'shab'ti 'ani wa'er'eh hebel tachath hashamesh.

**Ecc4:7** Then I returned, and I saw vanity under the sun.

ח יש אחד ואין שני גם בן ואח אין-לו  
ואין קץ לכל-עמלו גם-עיניו לא-תשבע עשר ולמי אני עמל  
ומחסר את-נפשי מטובה גם-זה הבל וענין רע הוא:

8. yesh 'echad w'eyn sheni gam ben wa'ach 'eyn-lo  
w'eyn qets l'kal-`amalo gam-`eynayu lo'-this'ba` `osher ul'mi 'ani `amel  
um'chaser 'eth-naph'shi mitobah gam-zeh hebel w'in'yan ra` hu'.

**Ecc4:8** There is one alone, and there is not a second; yea, he has neither a son  
nor a brother, yet there is no end of all his labor; even his eyes are not satisfied with riches;

and he says, **For whom** do I labor and **bereave my soul of good?**  
**This also** is **vanity** and it is **an evil** task.

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ט טובים השנים מן-האחד אשר יש-להם שכר טוב בעמלם:  
9. **tobim hash'nayim min-ha'echad 'asher yesh-lahem sakar tob ba'amalam.**  
**Ecc4:9** Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor.

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י כי אם-יפלו האחד יקים את-חברו  
ואילו האחד שיפול ואין שני להקימו:  
10. **ki 'im-yipolu ha'echad yaqim 'eth-chabero**  
**w'ilo ha'echad sheyipol w'eyn sheni lahaqimo.**  
**Ecc4:10** For if they fall, the one shall lift up his companion.  
But woe to him, the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up.

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יא גם אם-ישכבו שנים וחס להם ולאחד איך יחס:  
11. **gam 'im-yish'k'bu sh'nayim w'cham lahem ul'echad 'eyak yecham.**  
**Ecc4:11** Also, if two lie down together they keep warm, but how can one be warm alone?

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יב ואם-יתקפו האחד השנים יעמדו נגדו  
והחוט המשלש לא במהרה ינתק:  
12. **w'im-yith'q'pho ha'echad hash'nayim ya'am'du neg'do**  
**w'hachut ham'shulash lo' bim'herah yinatheq.**  
**Ecc4:12** And if one prevail against him, two shall stand in front of him.  
A threefold cord is not quickly torn apart.

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יג טוב ילד מסכן וחכם ממלך זקן  
וכסיל אשר לא-ידע להזהר עוד:  
13. **tob yeled mis'ken w'chakam mimelek zaqen uk'sil 'asher lo'-yada l'hizaher od.**  
**Ecc4:13** Better is a poor and a wise child than an old and foolish king  
who no longer knows to be warned.

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יד כי-מבית הסורים יצא למלך כי גם במלכותו נולד רש:  
14. **ki-mibeyth hasurim yatsa' lim'lok ki gam b'mal'kutho nolad rash.**  
**Ecc4:14** For from out of the house of the imprisoned he has come to become king,  
although he was born poor in his kingdom.

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טו ראיתי את-כל החיים המהלכים תחת השמש עם הילד השני  
אשר יעמד תחתיו:  
15. **ra'ithi 'eth-kal-hachayim ham'hal'kim tachath hashamesh**  
**'im hayeled hasheni 'asher ya'amod tach'tayu.**  
**Ecc4:15** I have seen all the living which walk under the sun,

with the second child who shall stand up instead of him.

טז איין-קין לְכָל-הָעָם לְכֹל אֲשֶׁר-הָיָה לְפָנֵיהֶם גַּם  
הָאַחֲרוֹנִים לֹא יִשְׂמְחוּ-בּו כִּי-גַם-זֶה הֶבֶל וְרַעְיוֹן רוּחַ:

16. 'eyn-qets l'kal-ha'am l'kol 'asher-hayah liph'neyhem gam  
ha'acharonim lo' yis'm'chu-bo ki-gam-zeh hebel w'ra'yon ruach.

**Ecc4:16** There is no end to all the people, to all who were before them, and they also  
that come after shall not rejoice with him, for this also is vanity and vexation of spirit.

יז נִשְׁמַר רַגְלֶיךָ כַּאֲשֶׁר תֵּלֵךְ אֶל-בֵּית הָאֱלֹהִים  
וְקָרֹב לִשְׁמֹעַ מִתֵּת הַכְּסִילִים זָבַח כִּי-אֵינָם יוֹדְעִים לַעֲשׂוֹת רָע:

1. (4:17 in Heb.) sh'mor rag'leyak ka'asher telek 'el-beyth ha'Elohim  
w'qarob lish'mo'a miteth hak'silim zabach ki-'eynam yod'im la'asoth ra'.

**Ecc5:1** Guard your feet as you go to the house of the Elohim and draw near to hear more  
than to give a sacrifice of fools; for they do not know that they are doing evil.

## Chapter 5

א אַל-תִּבְהַל עַל-פִּיךָ וְלִבְךָ אַל-יִמָּהַר לְהוֹצִיא  
דָּבָר לְפָנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים כִּי הָאֱלֹהִים בְּנִשְׁמָיִם  
וְאַתָּה עַל-הָאָרֶץ עַל-כֵּן יִהְיוּ דְבָרֶיךָ מְעֻטִּים:

2. (5:1 in Heb.) 'al-t'bahel 'al-piyak w'lib'ak 'al-y'maher l'hotsi' dabar  
liph'ney ha'Elohim ki ha'Elohim bashamayim w'atah 'al-ha'arets  
'al-ken yih'yu d'bareyak m'atim.

**Ecc5:2** Do not be hasty on your mouth, and do not let your heart hurry  
to bring forth a word before the Elohim. For the Elohim is in the heavens  
and you are on the earth; therefore let your words be few.

ב כִּי בָּא הַחֲלוֹם בְּרֹב עֲנָנִין וְקוֹל כְּסִיל בְּרֹב דְּבָרִים:

3. (5:2 in Heb.) ki ba' hachalom b'rob 'in'yan w'qol k'sil b'rob d'barim.

**Ecc5:3** For the dream comes through the multitude of business  
and the voice of a fool is known by multitude of words.

ג כַּאֲשֶׁר תִּדְּרַר נִדְּרָה לְאֱלֹהִים אַל-תִּתְאַחֵר לְשַׁלְּמוֹ  
כִּי אֵין חֶפֶץ בַּכְּסִילִים אֶת אֲשֶׁר-תִּדְּרַר שְׁלֹם:

4. (5:3 in Heb.) ka'asher tidor neder l'Elohim 'al-t'acher l'shal'mo  
ki 'eyn chephets bak'silim 'eth 'asher-tidor shalem.

**Ecc5:4** When you vow a vow to Elohim, do not wait to fulfill it;  
for He has no delight in fools. Pay that which you have vowed!

ד טוֹב אֲשֶׁר לֹא-תִדְּרַר מִשְׁתְּדוֹר וְלֹא תִשְׁלֹם:

5. (5:4 in Heb.) tob 'asher lo'-thidor mishetidor w'lo' th'shalem.



**Ecc5:5** It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.

האל-תתן את-פיה לחטיא את-בשרך  
ואל-תאמר לפני המלאך כי שגגה היא למה יקצר  
האלהים על-קולך וחבל את-מעשה ידיך:

6. (5:5 in Heb.) 'al-titen 'eth-piyak lachati' 'eth-b'sarek w'al-to'mar li'ph'ney hamal'ak  
ki sh'gagah hi' lamah yiq'tsoph ha'Elohim 'al-qoleak w'chibel 'eth-ma'aseh yadeyah.

**Ecc5:6** Do not let your mouth cause your flesh to sin  
and do not say in the presence of the messenger that it was an error.  
Why should the Elohim be angry at your voice and destroy the work of your hands?

וכי ברב חלמות והבליים ודברים הרבה כי את-האלהים ירא:

7. (5:6 in Heb.) ki b'rob chalomoth wahabalim  
ud'barim har'beh ki 'eth-ha'Elohim y'ra'.

**Ecc5:7** For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities:  
but fear the Elohim.

זאם-עשק רש וגזל משפט וצדק תראה במדינה אל-תתמה  
על-החפץ כי גבה מעל גבה שמר וגבהים עליהם:

8. (5:7 in Heb.) 'im-'osheq rash w'gezel mish'pat  
watsedeq tir'eh bam'dinah 'al-tith'mah 'al-hachephets  
ki gaboah me'al gaboah shomer ug'bohim 'aleyhem.

**Ecc5:8** If you see the oppression of the poor and denial of justice  
and righteousness in the province, marvel not at the matter;  
for a high one over the high one is observing, and higher ones are over them.

חיותרון ארץ בכל היא מלך לשדה נעבד:

9. (5:8 in Heb.) w'yith'ron 'erets bakol hi' melek l'sadeh ne'ebad.

**Ecc5:9** And the advantage of the earth is for all; it is a king that has the field being tilled.

טאהב כסף לא-ישבע כסף  
ומי-אהב בהמון לא תבואה גם-זה הבל:

10. (5:9 in Heb.) 'oheb keseph lo'-yis'ba` keseph  
umi-'oheb behamon lo' th'bu'ah gam-zeh habel.

**Ecc5:10** He who loves silver shall not be satisfied with silver,  
nor he who loves abundance with increase. This also is vanity.

יברבות הטובה רבו אוכליה  
ומה-בשרון לבעליה כי אם-ראית עיניו:

11. (5:10 in Heb.) bir'both hatobah rabbu 'ok'leyah  
umah-kish'ron lib'aleiyah ki 'im-r'iath 'eynayyu.

**Ecc5:11** When the good increase, they are increased that eat them.

So **what** is **the advantage** to **their owners** except to see it with **their eyes**?

יֵא מְתוּקָה נְשֹׁנַת הָעֶבֶד אִם-מְעַט וְאִם-הַרְבֵּה יֹאכֵל  
וְהַשָּׁבַע לְעֹשִׂיר אֵינֶנּוּ מְנִיחַ לוֹ לִישׁוֹן:

12. (5:11 in Heb.) **m'thuqah sh'nath ha`obed 'im-m`at w'im-har'beh yo'kel**  
**w'hasaba`le`ashir 'eynenu maniach lo lishon.**

**Ecc5:12** The sleep of the one serving is **pleasant**, whether he eats **little or much**;  
but **the abundance of the rich man** does **not allow** him to sleep.

יֵבִישׁ רָעָה חוֹלָה רָאִיתִי תַּחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ  
עֹשֶׂר נִשְׁמָר לְבַעְלָיו לְרָעָתוֹ:

13. (5:12 in Heb.) **yesh ra`ah cholah ra'ithi tachath hashamesh**  
**`osher shamur lib`alayu l'ra`atho.**

**Ecc5:13** There is a grievous **evil** which **I** have seen **under the sun**:  
**riches being kept** for their owners **to his hurt**.

יֵגְוָאבֶד הָעֹשֶׂר הַחַוָּא בְּעֵינֵי רַע  
וְחוֹלִיד בֶּן וְאֵין בְּיָדוֹ מְאוּמָּה:

14. (5:13 in Heb.) **w'abad ha`osher hahu' b'in'yan ra`**  
**w'holid ben w'eyn b'yado m'umah.**

**Ecc5:14** When those **riches** were lost **through an evil investment**  
and **he had fathered a son**, and there is **nothing** in **his hand**.

יֵד כְּאֹשֶׁר יָצָא מִבֶּטֶן אִמּוֹ עָרוֹם יָשׁוּב לְלָכֶת כְּשָׁבָא  
וּמְאוּמָּה לֹא-יִשָּׂא בְּעַמְלּוֹ שִׁילָךְ בְּיָדוֹ:

15. (5:14 in Heb.) **ka'asher yatsa' mibeten 'imo `arom yashub laleketh k'sheba'**  
**um'umah lo'-yisa' ba'amalo sheyolek b'yado.**

**Ecc5:15** As he had come **naked** from his mother's womb, he turns back to go **as he came**.  
He shall take **nothing** of his labor that he can carry in **his hand**.

טוֹגֶם-זֶה רָעָה חוֹלָה כָּל-עֲמַת שָׁבָא כִּן יִלָּךְ  
וּמַה-יִּתְרוֹן לוֹ שִׁיעָמָל לָרוּחַ:

16. (5:15 in Heb.) **w'gam-zoh ra`ah cholah kal-`umath sheba' ken yelek**  
**umah-yith'ron lo sheya`amol laruach.**

**Ecc5:16** This **also** is a grievous **evil**, that in **all as he came**,  
so shall he go. And **what** is **the advantage** to him who toils for the wind?

טַז גַּם כָּל-יָמָיו בַּחֲשֹׁךְ יֹאכֵל וְכַעַס הַרְבֵּה וְחֲלָיו וְקִצְפָּה:

17. (5:16 in Heb.) **gam kal-yamayu bachoshek yo'kel w'ka`as har'beh**  
**w'chal'yo waqatseph.**

**Ecc5:17** All his days **also** he eats in **darkness** with **much sorrow**, **sickness** and **anger**.

יִזְהַנָּה אֲשֶׁר-רָאִיתִי אָנִי טוֹב אֲשֶׁר-יָפָה לְאָכּוֹל-וְלִשְׁתּוֹת  
וְלִרְאוֹת טוֹבָה בְּכָל-עֲמָלוֹ שְׂנִיעַמַל תַּחַת-הַשָּׁמֶשׁ מִסֵּפֶר יְמֵי-חַיּוֹ  
אֲשֶׁר-נָתַן-לוֹ הָאֱלֹהִים כִּי-הוּא חֶלְקוֹ:

18. (5:17 in Heb.) **hinneh 'asher-ra'ithi 'ani tob 'asher-yapheh le'ekol-w'lish'toth w'hir'oth tobah b'kal-'amalo sheya'amol tachath-hashemesh mis'par y'mey-chayaw 'asher-nathan-lo ha'Elohim ki-hu' chel'qo.**

**Ecc5:18** Behold that which I have seen: it is good which is fitting for one to eat, to drink and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun the number of the days of his life which the Elohim has given him; for it is his reward.

יִחַגּוּם כָּל-הָאָדָם אֲשֶׁר נָתַן-לוֹ הָאֱלֹהִים עֹשֶׁר וְנִכְסִים  
וְהִשְׁלִיטוּ לְאָכּוֹל מִמֶּנּוּ וְלִשְׂאֹת אֶת-חֶלְקוֹ  
וְלִשְׂמֹחַ בְּעֲמָלוֹ זֶה מַתַּת אֱלֹהִים הִיא:

19. (5:18 in Heb.) **gam kal-ha'adam 'asher nathan-lo ha'Elohim 'osher un'kasim w'hish'lito le'ekol mimenu w'lase'th 'eth-chel'qo w'lis'moach ba'amalozoh matath 'Elohim hi'.**

**Ecc5:19** Also every man to whom the Elohim has given to him riches and wealth, He has given him power to eat from them and to receive his reward and to rejoice in his labor; this is the gift of Elohim.

יֵט כִּי לֹא הִרְבָּה יִזְכֹּר אֶת-יְמֵי חַיּוֹ  
כִּי הָאֱלֹהִים מַעֲנָה בְּשִׂמְחַת לְבוֹ:

20. (5:19 in Heb.) **ki lo' har'beh yiz'kor 'eth-y'mey chayayu ki ha'Elohim ma'aneh b'sim'chath libo.**

**Ecc5:20** For he shall not much remember the days of his life, because the Elohim answered him in the joy of his heart.

## Chapter 6

אֵיֶשׁ רָעָה אֲשֶׁר רָאִיתִי תַּחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ וְרַבָּה הִיא עַל-הָאָדָם:

1. **yesh ra'ah 'asher ra'ithi tachath hashamesh w'rabbah hi' 'al-ha'adam.**

**Ecc6:1** There is an evil which I have seen under the sun and it is great among men

בְּאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר יִתֵּן-לוֹ הָאֱלֹהִים עֹשֶׁר וְנִכְסִים וְכָבוֹד  
וְאֵינְנוּ חָסֵר לְנַפְשׁוֹ מִכָּל אֲשֶׁר-יִתְּאוּהוּ  
וְלֹא-יִשְׁלִיטְנוּ הָאֱלֹהִים לְאָכּוֹל מִמֶּנּוּ  
כִּי אִישׁ נִכְבְּרִי יֵאבְּלָנוּ זֶה הֶבֶל וְחֶלִי רָע הוּא:

2. **'ish 'asher yiten-lo ha'Elohim 'osher un'kasim w'kabod w'eynenu chaser l'naph'sho mikol 'asher-yith'aueh w'lo'-yash'litenu ha'Elohim le'ekol mimenu**

ki 'ish nak'ri yo'kalenu zeh hebel wachali ra` hu'.

**Ecc6:2** a man to whom the Elohim has given to him riches and wealth and honor  
so that he lacks nothing for his soul of all that he desires;  
yet the Elohim does not give him power to eat from them, for a foreign man eats it.  
This is vanity and it is an evil disease.

גאם-יוליד איש מאַח וְשָׁנִים רַבּוֹת יִחְיֶה  
וְרַב שְׂהִיּוֹ יָמֵי-שָׁנָיו וְנִפְשׁוֹ לֹא-תִשָּׁבַע מִן-הַטּוֹבָה  
וְגַם-קְבוּרָה לֹא-תִתֶּנָּה לוֹ אֲמַרְתִּי טוֹב מִמֶּנּוּ הַנֶּפֶל:

3. 'im-yolid 'ish me'ah w'shanim rabboth yich'yeh  
w'rab sheyih'yu y'mey-shanayu w'naph'sho lo'-this'ba` min-hatobah  
w'gam-q'burah lo'-hay'thah lo 'amar'ti tob mimenu hanaphel.

**Ecc6:3** If a man begets a hundred children and lives many years,  
so that the days of his years are many, but his soul is not filled with good,  
and also that he have no burial; I say, that an untimely birth is better than he,

ד כִּי-בִהְבֵּל בָּא וּבַחֲשֹׁךְ יֵלֵךְ וּבַחֲשֹׁךְ שָׁמוֹ יִכָּפֶה:

4. ki-bahebel ba' ubachoshek yelek ubachoshek sh'mo y'kuseh.

**Ecc6:4** for he comes in with vanity and goes out in darkness;  
and his name shall be covered in darkness.

ה גַּם-שָׁמֶשׁ לֹא-רָאָה וְלֹא יָדַע נֶחֱת לָזֶה מִזֶּה:

5. gam-shemesh lo'-ra'ah w'lo' yada` nachath lazeh mizeh.

**Ecc6:5** Also he has not seen the sun, nor known anything;  
this has more rest than the other.

ו וְיֵאָלוּ חַיָּה אֶלֶף שָׁנִים פַּעַמִּים  
וְטוֹבָה לֹא רָאָה הֵלֹא אֶל-מָקוֹם אֶחָד הַכֹּל הוֹלֵךְ:

6. w'ilu chayah 'eleph shanim pa'amayim  
w'tobah lo' ra'ah halo' 'el-maqom 'echad hakol holek.

**Ecc6:6** Yes, though he lives a thousand years twice,  
Yet he has seen no good. Do not all go to one place?

ז כָּל-עֵמֶל הָאָדָם לְפִיהוּ וְגַם-הַנֶּפֶשׁ לֹא תִמָּלֵא:

7. kal-`amal ha'adam l'phihu w'gam-hanephes lo' thimale'.

**Ecc6:7** All a man's labor is for his mouth and yet the soul is not filled.

ח כִּי מַה-יֹתֵר לְחָכָם מִן-הַכְּסִיל מַה-לָּעָנִי  
יֹדֵעַ לַחֲלֹךְ נֶגֶד הַחַיִּים:

8. ki mah-yother lechakam min-hak'sil mah-le`ani yode`a lahalok neged hachayim.

**Ecc6:8** For what advantage does the wise more than the fool?  
What advantage does the poor have, that knows to walk before the living?

ט טוב מראה עינים מהלך-נפש גם-זה הבל ורעות רוח:

9. **tob mar'eh `eynayim mehalak-naphesh gam-zeh hebel ur'uth ruach.**

**Ecc6:9** Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the soul.

This also is vanity and vexation of spirit.

י מה-שהיה כבר נקרא שמו ונודע אשר-הוא אדם  
ולא-יוכל לדון עם שהתקיר ממנו:

10. **mah-shehayah k'bar niq'ra' sh'mo w'noda `asher-hu' 'adam w'lo'-yukal ladin `im shehataqiph mimenu.**

**Ecc6:10** That which has been called already his name, and it is known what it is man; for he is not able to contend with him who is stronger than he.

יא כי יש-דברים הרבה מרבים הבל מה-יתר לאדם:

11. **ki yesh-d'barim har'beh mar'bim habel mah-yother la'adam.**

**Ecc6:11** For there are many words that increase vanity. What is the advantage to a man?

יב כי מי-יודע מה-טוב לאדם  
בחיים מספר ימי-חיי הבלו ויעשם כצל  
אשר מי-יגיד לאדם מה-יהיה אחרי תחת השמש:

12. **ki mi-yode'a mah-tob la'adam bachayim mis'par y'mey-chayey heb'lo w'ya`asem katsel 'asher mi-yagid la'adam mah-yih'yeh 'acharayu tachath hashamesh.**

**Ecc6:12** For who knows what is good for a man in this life, the number of the days of his vain life? He shall spend them as a shadow.

For who can tell a man what shall be after him under the sun?

## Chapter 7

א טוב שם משמן טוב ויום המות מיום הולדו:

1. **tob shem mishemen tob w'yom hamaweth miyom hiual'do.**

**Ecc7:1** A good name is better than a good ointment, and the day of one's death is better than the day of one's birth.

ב טוב ללכת אל-בית-אבל מלכת אל-בית משתה  
באשר הוא סוף כל-האדם ורחי יתן אל-לבו:

2. **tob laleketh 'el-beyth-'ebel mileketh 'el-beyth mish'teh ba'asher hu' soph kal-ha'adam w'hachay yiten 'el-libo.**

**Ecc7:2** It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, for that is the end of every man, and the living takes it to heart.

ג טוב כעס משחוק כי-ברע פנים ייטב לב:

3. tob ka`as mis'choq ki-b'ro`a panim yitab leb.

**Ecc7:3** Sorrow is better than laughter, for by the sadness of a face a heart is made better.

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ד לֵב חֲכָמִים בְּבֵית אֵבֶל וְלֵב כְּסִילִים בְּבֵית שִׂמְחָה:

4. leb chakamim b'beyth 'ebel w'leb k'silim b'beyth sim'chah.

**Ecc7:4** The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning,  
while the heart of fools is in the house of pleasure.

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ה טוֹב לִשְׁמָע גְּעֵרַת חָכָם מֵאִישׁ שִׁיר כְּסִילִים:

5. tob lish'mo`a ga`arath chakam me'ish shome`a shir k'silim.

**Ecc7:5** It is better to hear to the rebuke of a wise than for a man to hear the song of fools.

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ו כִּי כְקוֹל הַפִּירִים תַּחַת הַפִּיר כֵּן שִׁחִק הַכְּסִיל וְגַם־זֶה הָבֵל:

6. ki k'qol hasirim tachath hasir ken s'choq hak'sil w'gam-zeh habel.

**Ecc7:6** For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fool;  
and this also is vanity.

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ז כִּי הָעֹשֶׂק יְהוֹלִיל חָכָם וַיַּאֲבֵד אֶת־לֵב מִתְּנָה:

7. ki ha`osheq y'holel chakam wi'abed 'eth-leb matanah.

**Ecc7:7** For oppression makes a wise man mad, and a bribe destroys the heart.

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ח טוֹב אַחֲרִית דְּבָר מֵרֵאשִׁיתוֹ טוֹב אֶרֶךְ־רוּחַ מִגְּבִה־רוּחַ:

8. tob 'acharith dabar mere'shitho tob 'erek-ruach mig'bah-ruach.

**Ecc7:8** Better is the end of a matter than its beginning;  
patience of spirit is better than haughtiness of spirit.

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ט אַל־תִּבְהַל בְּרוּיָךְ לְכַעֵס כִּי כַעַס בְּחִיק כְּסִילִים יָנוּחַ:

9. 'al-t'bahel b'ruchak lik'`os ki ka`as b'cheyq k'silim yanuach.

**Ecc7:9** Do not be hasty in your spirit to be vexed, for anger rests in the bosom of fools.

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י אַל־תֹּאמַר מָה הָיָה שְׂחִימִים הָרֵאשִׁנִּים הָיוּ טוֹבִים מֵאֵלָּה  
כִּי לֹא מִחֲכָמָה שָׁאֲלָתָ עַל־זֶה:

10. 'al-to'mar meh hayah shehayamim hari'shonim hayu tobim me'eleh  
ki lo' mechak'mah sha'al'at `al-zeh.

**Ecc7:10** Do not say, Why is it that the former days were better than these?  
For it is not from wisdom that you ask about this.

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יא טוֹבָה חֲכָמָה עִם־נַחֲלָה וַיִּתֵּר לְרֹאֵי הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ:

11. tobah chak'mah `im-nachalah w'yother l'ro'ey hashamesh.

**Ecc7:11** Wisdom is good with an inheritance and an advantage to those who see the sun.

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יב כי בצל החכמה בצל הכסף  
ויתרון דעת החכמה תחיה בעליה:

12. **ki b'tsel hachak'mah b'tsel hakaseph**  
**w'yith'ron da'ath hachak'mah t'chayeh b'`aleyah.**

**Ecc7:12** For wisdom is in a shadow, and money is in a shadow;  
but the excellency of knowledge is that wisdom gives life to them that have it.

יג ראה את-מעשה האלהים כי מי יוכל לתקן את אשר עותו:

13. **r'eh 'eth-ma`aseh ha'Elohim ki mi yukal l'thaqen 'eth 'asher `iu'tho.**

**Ecc7:13** Consider the work of the Elohim, for who is able to straighten what He has bent?

יד ביום טובה היה בטוב  
וביום רעה ראה גם את-זה לעמת-זה עשה האלהים  
על-דברת שלא ימצא האדם אחריו מאומה:

14. **b'yom tobah heyeh b'tob**  
**ub'yom ra'ah r'eh gam 'eth-zeh l'umath-zeh `asah ha'Elohim**  
**`al-dib'rath shelo' yim'tsa' ha'adam 'acharayu m'umah.**

**Ecc7:14** In the day of prosperity be joyful,  
but in the day of adversity consider the Elohim also has made this along with this  
on the matter that man shall not find anything that shall be after him.

טו את-הכל ראיתי בימי הבלי יש צדיק אבד בצדקו  
ויש רשע מאריך ברעתו:

15. **'eth-hakol ra'ithi bimey heb'li yesh tsadiq 'obed b'tsid'qo**  
**w'yesh rasha` ma'arik b'ra`atho.**

**Ecc7:15** I have seen everything in the days of my vanity;  
there is a righteous man who perishes in his righteousness  
and there is a wicked man who prolongs his life in his wickedness.

טז אל-תהי צדיק הרבה ואל-תתחכם יותר למה תשומם:

16. **'al-t'hi tsadiq har'beh w'al-tith'chakam yother lamah tishomem.**

**Ecc7:16** Do not be excessively righteous and do not be overly wise.  
Why should you destroy yourself?

יז אל-תרשע הרבה ואל-תהי סכל למה תמות בלא עתה:

17. **'al-tir'sha` har'beh w'al-t'hi sakal lamah thamuth b'lo' `iteak.**

**Ecc7:17** Do not be excessively wicked and do not be a fool.  
Why should you die before your time?

יח טוב אשר תאחז בזה וגם-מזה אל-תנח את-ידיך  
כי-ירא אלהים יצא את-כלם:

18. **tob** 'asher te'echoz **bazeh w'gam-mizeh** 'al-tanach 'eth-yadeak  
**ki-y're** 'Elohim yetse' 'eth-kulam.

**Ecc7:18** It is **good** that you should take hold of this;  
yes, **also** from this withdraw **not** your hand:  
for the one who fears **Elohim** comes forth of them **all**.

יט החכמה תעז לחכם מעשרה שליטים אשר היו בעיר:

19. **hachak'mah ta`oz lechakam me`asarah shalitim** 'asher hayu ba`ir.

**Ecc7:19** Wisdom strengthens a wise man more than ten rulers who are in a city.

כ כי אדם אין צדיק בארץ אשר יעשה-טוב ולא יחטא:

20. **ki** 'adam 'eyn tsadiq ba'arets 'asher ya`aseh-tob w'lo' yecheta'.

**Ecc7:20** For there is **not** a righteous man on the earth who does good and sins **not**.

כא גם לכל-הדברים אשר ידברו אל-תתן לבך  
אשר לא-תשמע את-עבדך מקללך:

21. **gam l'kal-had'barim** 'asher y'daberu 'al-titen libeak  
'asher lo'-thish'ma` 'eth-`ab'd'ak m'qal'leak.

**Ecc7:21** Also give **not** your heart to all words that are spoken;  
lest you hear your servant curse you.

כב כי גם-פעמים רבות ידע לבך אשר גם-את קללת אחרים:

22. **ki gam-p`amim rabboth yada` libeak** 'asher gam-'at' qilal'at 'acherim.

**Ecc7:22** For also your own heart knows  
that you yourself have also cursed others many times.

כג כל-זה נסיתי בחכמה אמרתי אחכמה והיא רחוקה ממני:

23. **kal-zoh nisithi bachak'mah** 'amar'ti 'ech'kamah w'hi' r'choqah mimeni.

**Ecc7:23** I tested all this with wisdom, and I said, I shall be wise, but it was far from me.

כד רחוק מה-שקיה ועמק עמק מי ימצאנו:

24. **rachok mah-shehayah w'`amoq `amoq mi yim'tsa'enu.**

**Ecc7:24** That which is far off, and exceeding deep. Who can discover it?

כה סבותי אני ולבי לדעת ולתור ובקש חכמה וחשבון  
ולדעת רשע כסל והסכלות הוללות:

25. **sabothi** 'ani w'libi lada`ath w'lathur ubaqesh chak'mah w'ches'hon  
w'lada`ath resha` kesel w'hasik'luth holeloth.

**Ecc7:25** I applied my heart to know, to investigate and to seek wisdom  
and the reason of things, and to know the evil of folly and the foolishness of madness.

כּוּמוּצָא אָנִי מֵר מִמּוֹת אֶת־הָאִשָּׁה אֲשֶׁר־הִיא מְצוּדִים  
וְחִרְמִים לְבָהּ אֲסוּרִים יְדִיהָ טוֹב לִפְנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים וּמְלִט מִמָּנָה  
וְחוּטָא וְלָכֶד בָּהּ:

26. umotse' 'ani mar mimaweth 'eth-ha'ishah 'asher-hi' m'tsodim wacharamim libah  
'asurim yadeyah tob liph'ney ha'Elohim yimalet mimenah w'chote' yilaked bah.

Ecc7:26 And I found more bitter than death the woman whose heart is snares and nets,  
whose hands are chains. He who is good before the Elohim shall escape from her,  
but the sinner shall be captured by her.

כִּזְרָאָה זֶה מְצָאתִי אֶמְרָה קִהְלֶת אַחַת לְאַחַת לְמִצָּא חֲשִׁבוֹן:

27. r'eh zeh matsa'thi 'am'rah qohleth 'achath l'achath lim'tso' chesh'bon.

Ecc7:27 Behold, this I have found, says the Preacher,  
counting one by one, to find out the sum,

כַּח אֲשֶׁר עוֹד־בִּקְנָשָׁה בִּפְשִׁי וְלֹא מְצָאתִי אָדָם  
אֶחָד מֵאֶלֶף מְצָאתִי וְאִשָּׁה בְּכָל־אֵלֶּה לֹא מְצָאתִי:

28. 'asher 'od-biq'shah naph'shi w'lo' matsa'thi 'adam 'echad me'eleph matsa'thi  
w'ishah b'kal-'eleh lo' matsa'thi.

Ecc7:28 which yet my soul seek, but have not found.  
I have found one man among a thousand,  
but I have not found a woman among all these.

כֹּט לְבַד רָאָה־זֶה מְצָאתִי אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה הָאֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָאָדָם יָשָׁר  
וְהִמָּה בִקְשׁוּ חֲשִׁבֹנוֹת רַבִּים:

29. l'bad r'eh-zeh matsa'thi 'asher 'asah ha'Elohim 'eth-ha'adam yashar  
w'hemah biq'shu chish'bonoth rabbim.

Ecc7:29 Behold, I have found only this, that the Elohim made men upright,  
but they have sought out many devices.

## Chapter 8

אִמִּי כְהִחָכְכֶם וּמִי יוֹדֵעַ פֶּשֶׁר דְּבַר חֲכָמַת אָדָם תֹּאִיר פָּנָיו  
וְעִז פָּנָיו יִשְׁנָא:

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.

בִּאֲנִי פִי־מֶלֶךְ שְׁמוֹר וְעַל דְּבַר־תְּשׁוּבָת 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.

ג אל-תִּבְהֵל מִפָּנָיו תֵּלֵךְ אֶל-תַּעֲמֹד בְּדָבָר רָע  
כִּי כָל-אֲשֶׁר יַחְפֹּץ יַעֲשֶׂה:

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.

ד בְּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר-מֶלֶךְ שְׁלֹטוֹן וּמִי יֹאמַר-לוֹ מִה-תַּעֲשֶׂה:

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?

ה שׁוֹמֵר מִצְוָה לֹא יָדַע דִּבְרַר רָע וְעֵת וּמִשְׁפָּט יָדַע לֵב חָכָם:

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.

ו כִּי לְכָל-חֲפֵץ יֵשׁ עֵת וּמִשְׁפָּט כִּי-רָעַת הָאָדָם רַבָּה עָלָיו:

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.

ז כִּי-אֵינָנוּ יוֹדְעֵי מִה-שִׁיחֶיהָ כִּי כֹאֲשֶׁר יִהְיֶה מִי יִגִּיד לוֹ:

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?

ח אֵין אָדָם שְׁלִיט בָּרוּחַ לְכֹלֹא אֶת-הָרוּחַ  
וְאֵין שְׁלֹטוֹן בְּיוֹם הַמָּוֶת וְאֵין מְשַׁלַּחַת בַּמְּלָחָמָה  
וְלֹא-יִמְלֹט רָשָׁע 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.

ט אֶת-כָּל-זֶה רָאִיתִי וְנָתַן אֶת-לִבִּי לְכָל-מַעֲשֶׂה

אֲשֶׁר נַעֲשֶׂה תַּחַת הַשָּׁמַיִם עֵת אֲשֶׁר שָׁלַט הָאָדָם בָּאָדָם לְרַע 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.

וַיִּבְכֶּן רְאִיתִי רְשָׁעִים קִבְּרִים וַבָּאוּ וּמִמָּקוֹם קְדוֹשׁ יִהְיוּ  
וַיִּשְׁתַּכְּחוּ בְּעִיר אֲשֶׁר כֵּן-עָשׂוּ גַם-זֶה הִבֵּל:

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.

יֵאֱשָׁר אֵין-נִעְשָׂה פֶתֶגֶם מַעֲשֵׂה הָרָעָה מְהֵרָה  
עַל-כֵּן מָלֵא לֵב בְּנֵי-הָאָדָם בָּהֶם לַעֲשׂוֹת רָע:

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.

יֵב אֲשֶׁר חָטָא עֲשָׂה רָע מְאֹד וּמֵאֲרִיךְ לוֹ כִּי גַם-יִוָּדַע אָנִי  
אֲשֶׁר יִהְיֶה-טוֹב לִירְאֵי הָאֱלֹהִים אֲשֶׁר יִירָאוּ מִלִּפְנֵיו:

12. 'asher chote' oseh ra' m'ath uma'arik lo ki gam-yode'a 'ani  
'asher yih'yeh-tob l'yir'ey 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.

יֵג וְטוֹב לֹא-יִהְיֶה לָרָשָׁע וְלֹא-יֵאָרֶיךָ יָמִים כִּפּוֹל  
אֲשֶׁר אֵינָנּוּ יִרָא מִלִּפְנֵי 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.

יֵד יִשְׁ-הֵבֵל אֲשֶׁר נִעְשָׂה עַל-הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר יֵשׁ צַדִּיקִים  
אֲשֶׁר מִגִּיעַ אֲלֵהֶם כִּמְעַשֵּׂה הָרְשָׁעִים וַיֵּשׁ רְשָׁעִים שְׂמִינִיעַ אֲלֵהֶם  
כִּמְעַשֵּׂה הַצַּדִּיקִים אֲמַרְתִּי שְׁגֹם-זֶה הִבֵּל:

14. yesh-hebel 'asher na-asah 'al-ha'arets 'asher yesh tsadiqim 'asher magi'a 'alehem  
k'ma'aseh har'sha'im w'yesh r'sha'im shemagi'a 'alehem k'ma'aseh hatsadiqim  
'amar'ti shegam-zeh habel.

**Ecc8:14** There is a vanity which is done on the earth, that is, there are righteous men to whom it happens according to the deeds of the wicked. And there are evil men to whom it happens according to the deeds of the righteous. I say that this also is vanity.

טוֹ וְשִׁבַּחְתִּי אֲנִי אֶת־הַשֹּׁמֶמָה אֲשֶׁר אֵין־טוֹב לָאָדָם תַּחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ  
כִּי אִם־לֶאֱכֹל וְלִשְׁתּוֹת וְלִשְׂמֹחַ וְהָיָא וְלִנְנוּ  
בְּעִמְלֹו יְמֵי חַיָּיו אֲשֶׁר־נָתַן־לוֹ הָאֱלֹהִים תַּחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ:

15. w'shibach'ti 'ani 'eth-hasim'chah 'asher 'eyn-tob la'adam tachath hashemesh  
ki 'im-le'ekol w'lish'toth w'lis'moach w'hu' yil'wenu ba'amalo y'mey chayayu  
'asher-nathan-lo ha'Elohim tachath hashamesh.

**Ecc8:15** So I commended pleasure, for there is nothing good for a man under the sun  
except to eat and to drink and to be glad; for that shall stand by him in his labor  
for the days of his life which the Elohim has given him under the sun.

טז כַּאֲשֶׁר נָתַתִּי אֶת־לְבִי לָדַעַת חֻכָּה  
וְלִרְאוֹת אֶת־הָעֲנָן אֲשֶׁר נִעְשָׂה עַל־הָאָרֶץ  
כִּי גַם בַּיּוֹם וּבַלַּיְלָה שְׁנָה בְּעֵינָיו אֵינְנוּ רֹאֶה:

16. ka'asher nathati 'eth-libi lada'ath chak'mah w'li'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),

יז וְרָאִיתִי אֶת־כָּל־מַעֲשֵׂה הָאֱלֹהִים כִּי לֹא יוּכַל הָאָדָם  
לְמַצּוֹא אֶת־הַמַּעֲשֵׂה אֲשֶׁר נִעְשָׂה תַּחַת־הַשָּׁמֶשׁ בְּנִשְׁל  
אֲשֶׁר יַעֲמַל הָאָדָם לְבָקֵשׁ וְלֹא יִמָּצֵא  
וְגַם אִם־יֹאמֶר הַחֹכֶם לָדַעַת לֹא יוּכַל לְמַצּוֹ:

17. w'ra'ithi 'eth-kal-ma'aseh ha'Elohim ki lo' yukal ha'adam lim'tso' 'eth-hama'aseh  
'asher na'asah thachath-hashemesh 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.

## Chapter 9

א כִּי אֶת־כָּל־זֶה נָתַתִּי אֶל־לְבִי וְלָבוֹר אֶת־כָּל־זֶה  
אֲשֶׁר הִצְדִּיקִים וְהַחֲכָמִים וַעֲבָדֵיהֶם בְּיַד  
הָאֱלֹהִים גַּם־אַהֲבָה גַּם־שִׂנְאָה אֵין יוֹדַע הָאָדָם הַכֹּל לִפְנֵיהֶם:

1. ki 'eth-kal-zeh nathati 'el-libi w'labur 'eth-kal-zeh 'asher hatsadiqim  
w'hachakamim wa'abadeyhem b'yad ha'Elohim gam-'ahabah gam-sin'ah  
'eyn yode'a ha'adam hakol liph'neyhem.

**Ecc9:1** For all this I have taken to my heart even to explain all this, that the righteous men,  
and wise men, and their deeds are in the hand of the Elohim.  
Man does not know whether it shall be love or hatred by all that is before them.



בִּהְפֹּל כַּאֲשֶׁר לְכֹל מְקֹרָה אֶחָד לְצַדִּיק וְלָרָשָׁע לְטוֹב  
וְלַטָּהוֹר וְלַטָּמֵא וְלִזְכָּיִם וְלָאֲשֶׁר אֵינָנּוּ זִכָּיִם כְּטוֹב כַּחֲטָא  
הַנִּשְׁפָּע כַּאֲשֶׁר שְׁבוּעָה יֵרָא:

2. **hakol ka'asher lakol miq'reh 'echad latsadiq**  
**w'larasha` latob w'latahor w'latame' w'lazobeach**  
**w'la'asher 'eynenu zobeach katob kachote' hanish'ba` ka'asher sh'bu`ah yare'.**

**Ecc9:2** All things come alike to all.

There is **one** event **to the righteous** and **to the wicked**; **to the good**, **to the clean**  
and **to the unclean**; **to him that sacrifices**, and **to him that sacrifices not**.

**As** is **the good** man, **so** is the sinner; and **he who swears** is **as he who fears an oath**.

גִּזְהָרָע כָּל אֲשֶׁר-נַעֲשֶׂה תַחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ  
כִּי-מְקֹרָה אֶחָד לְכֹל וְגַם לֵב בְּנֵי-הָאָדָם מִלֹּא-רָע  
וְהוֹלִלּוֹת בְּלִבָּם בְּחַיֵּיהֶם וְאַחֲרָיו אֶל-הַמֵּתִים:

3. **zeh ra` b'kol 'asher-na`asah tachath hashemesh**  
**ki-miq'reh 'echad lakol w'gam leb b'ney-ha'adam male'-ra`**  
**w'holeloth bil'babam b'chayeyhem w'acharayu 'el-hamethim.**

**Ecc9:3** This is **an evil** in **all** that is done **under the sun**, that there is **one** fate **for all** men.

**Furthermore**, **the heart** of **the sons** of **men** are full of **evil** and **insanity** is **in their hearts**  
**throughout their lives**. **After that** they go **to the dead**.

ד כִּי-מִי אֲשֶׁר יִבָּחַר אֶל כָּל-חַיִּים יֵשׁ בְּטָחוֹן  
כִּי-לִכְלֹב חַי הוּא טוֹב מִן-הָאֲרִיָּה הַמֵּת:

4. **ki-mi 'asher yibacher 'el kal-hachayim yesh bitachon**  
**ki-l'keleb chay hu' tob min-ha'ar'yeh hameth.**

**Ecc9:4** For **whoever** is joined with **all the living**, **there is hope**;  
**for a living dog** is **better than** a dead **lion**.

ה כִּי חַיִּים יוֹדְעִים שְׁיָמְתוּ וְחַמֵּתִים אֵינָם יוֹדְעִים מְאוּמָה  
וְאֵין-עוֹד לָהֶם שָׂכָר כִּי נִשְׁכַּח זְכָרָם:

5. **ki hachayim yod'im sheyamuthu w'hamethim 'eynam yod'im m'umah**  
**w'eyn-`od lahem sakar ki nish'kach zik'ram.**

**Ecc9:5** For the living **know** that they shall die; but **the dead** do **not know** anything,  
**nor** have they **any longer** a reward, **for their memory** is forgotten.

ו גַּם אֲהָבָתָם גַּם-שִׂנְאָתָם גַּם-קִנְאָתָם כָּבָר אֲבָדָה  
וְחֶלֶק אֵין-לָהֶם עוֹד לְעוֹלָם כָּל אֲשֶׁר-נַעֲשֶׂה תַחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ:

6. **gam 'ahabatham gam-sin'atham gam-qin'atham k'bar 'abadah**  
**w'cheleq 'eyn-lahem `od l'`olam b'kol 'asher-na`asah tachath hashamesh.**

**Ecc9:6** Also **their love**, **their hate** and **their zeal** have already perished,  
and they shall **no any longer** have a **portion** **for ever** in **all** that is done **under the sun**.

זֶלֶךְ אָכַל בְּשִׂמְחָה לַחֲמֶה וּשְׂתֵה בְּלֵב-טוֹב יִינֶה  
כִּי כָבֵד רָצָה הָאֱלֹהִים אֶת-מַעֲשָׂיָהּ:

7. lek 'ekol b'sim'chah lach'meak ushatteh b'leb-tob yeyneak  
ki k'bar ratsah ha'Elohim 'eth-ma`aseyak.

**Ecc9:7** Go then, eat your bread in happiness and drink your wine with a cheerful heart;  
for the Elohim has already approved your works.

חִבְּכָל-עֵת יִהְיוּ בְּגָדֶיךָ לְבָנִים וְשֶׁמֶן עַל-רֹאשְׁךָ אַל-יִחָסֵר:

8. b'kal-`eth yih'yu b'gadeyak l'banim w'shemen `al-ro'sh'ak 'al-yeche'sar.

**Ecc9:8** Let your garments be white at every time, and let not oil be lacking on your head.

טִרְאַה חַיִּים עִם-אִשָּׁה אֲשֶׁר-אַהֲבָתָּ כָּל-יְמֵי חַיֵּי הַבִּלְהָ  
אֲשֶׁר נָתַן-לָךְ תַּחַת הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ כֹּל יְמֵי הַבִּלְהָ  
כִּי הוּא חֶלְקְךָ בַּחַיִּים וּבַעֲמָלְךָ אֲשֶׁר-אַתָּה עֹמֵל תַּחַת הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ:

9. r'eh chayim `im-'ishah 'asher-'ahab'at kal-y'mey chayey heb'lek  
'asher nathan-l'ak tachath hashemesh kol y'mey heb'lek  
ki hu' chel'q'k bachayim uba`amal'ak 'asher-'atah `amel tachath hashamesh.

**Ecc9:9** Look upon life with the woman whom you love all the days of the life of your vanity  
which He has given to you under the sun, all the days of your vanity;  
for this is your reward in life and in your labor in which you have labored under the sun.

י כֹּל אֲשֶׁר תִּמְצָא יָדְךָ לַעֲשׂוֹת בְּכֹחַךָ עֲשֵׂה כִּי אֵין מַעֲשֶׂה  
וְחִשְׁבֹּן וְדַעַת וְחִכְמָה בְּשֵׂאוֹל אֲשֶׁר אַתָּה הוֹלֵךְ שָׁמָּה: ס

10. kol 'asher tim'tsa' yad'ak la`asoth b'kochak `aseh ki 'eyn ma`aseh  
w'chesh'bon w'da`ath w'chak'mah bi'sh'ol 'asher 'atah holek shamah.

**Ecc9:10** Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might;  
for there is no activity nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom in Sheol  
where you are going there.

יֵאֵשְׁבֹתִי וְרָאִה תַּחַת-הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ כִּי לֹא לַקָּלִים הַמְרוּץ וְלֹא  
לַגִּבּוֹרִים הַמְלַחֲמָה וְגַם לֹא לַחֲכָמִים לָחֶם וְגַם לֹא לַנְּבִנִים  
עֲשֶׂר וְגַם לֹא לַיֹּדְעִים חֵן כִּי-עֵת וּפְגַע יִקְרָה אֶת-כָּלֶם:

11. shab'ti w'ra'oh thachath-hashemesh ki lo' laqalim hamerots  
w'lo' lagiborim hamil'chamah w'gam lo' lachakamim lechem  
w'gam lo' lan'bonim `osher w'gam lo' layod'im chen ki-`eth  
waphega` yiq'reh 'eth-kulam.

**Ecc9:11** I returned, and saw under the sun that the race is not to the swift  
and the battle is not to the warriors, and neither is yet bread to the wise  
nor yet wealth to the understanding nor yet favor to men of skill;  
for time and event meets with them all.

יב כי גם לא ידע האדם את-עתו פְּדָגִים שְׁנֵאֲחָזִים  
בְּמִצּוֹדָה רָעָה וְכַצִּפָּרִים הָאֲחֻזּוֹת בַּפֶּחַ  
כָּהֶם יוֹקְנָשִׁים בְּנֵי הָאָדָם לָעֵת רָעָה כְּנִשְׁתַּפּוֹל עֲלֵיהֶם פִּתְאֹם:

12. **ki gam lo'-yeda` ha'adam 'eth-`ito kadagim shene'echazim**  
**bim'tsodah ra'ah w'katsiparim ha'achuzoth bapach**  
**kahem yuqashim b'ney ha'adam l'`eth ra'ah k'shetipol `aleyhem pith'om.**

**Ecc9:12** for man also does not know his time:  
as fish that are taken in an evil net and as birds trapped in a snare,  
like them are the sons of men ensnared at an evil time when it suddenly falls on them.

יג גם-זוה ראיתי חכמה תחת השמש וגדולה היא אלי:

13. **gam-zoh ra'ithi chak'mah tachath hashamesh ug'dolah hi' `elay.**

**Ecc9:13** this wisdom have I seen also under the sun, and it is great unto me.

יד עיר קטנה ואנשים בה מעט ובא-אליה מלך גדול  
וסבב אותה ובנה עליה מצודים גדלים:

14. **`ir q'tanah wa'anashim bah m'`at uba'-`eleyah melek gadol**  
**w'sabab `othah ubanah `aleyah m'tsodim g'dolim.**

**Ecc9:14** There was a small city with few men in it and a great king came against it,  
and besieged it and built great siegeworks against it.

טו ומצא בה איש מסכן חכם ומלט-הוא את-העיר בְּחִכְמָתוֹ  
ואדם לא זכר את-האיש המסכן ההוא:

15. **umatsa' bah 'ish mis'ken chakam umilat-hu' 'eth-ha`ir b'chak'matho**  
**w'adam lo' zakar 'eth-ha'ish hamis'ken hahu'.**

**Ecc9:15** But there was found in it a poor wise man  
and he delivered the city by his wisdom. Yet no man remembered that poor man.

טז ואמרתי אני טובה חכמה מגבורה  
וחכמת המסכן בזויה ודבריו אינם נשמעים:

16. **w'amar'ti 'ani tobah chak'mah mig'burah**  
**w'chak'math hamis'ken b'zuyah ud'barayu 'eynam nish'ma`im.**

**Ecc9:16** So I said, Wisdom is better than strength.  
But the wisdom of the poor man is despised and his words are not heeded.

יז דברי חכמים בנחת נשמעים מזעקת מושל בכסילים:

17. **dib'rey chakamim b'nachath nish'ma`im miza`aqath moshel bak'silim.**

**Ecc9:17** The words of the wise men are heard in quietness  
than the cry of a ruler among fools.

יח טובה חכמה מקלי קרב וחוטא אחד יאבד טובה הרבה:

18. tobah chak'mah mik'ley q'rab w'chote' 'echad y'abed tobah har'beh.

Ecc9:18 Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good.

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## Chapter 10

אֲזֻבֹּבֵי מוֹת יִבְאִישׁ יָבִיעַ שֶׁמֶן רוֹקַח  
יָקָר מִחֲכָמָה מִכְבוֹד סְכָלוֹת מְעֻט:

1. z'bubey maweth yab'ish yabi`a shemen roqeach  
yaqar mechak'mah mikabod sik'luth m'`at.

Ecc10:1 Dead flies cause the ointment of the perfumer to stink and ferment,  
so a little foolishness is weightier than wisdom and than honor.

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ב לֵב חָכָם לִימִינוֹ וְלֵב כָּסִיל לְשִׁמְאָלוֹ:

2. leb chakam limino w'leb k'sil lis'mo'lo.

Ecc10:2 A wise man's heart is toward his right hand,  
but the foolish man's heart is toward the left.

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ג וְגַם-בִּדְרֵךְ כְּשֶׁהִסָּכַל הָלַךְ לְבוֹ חָסֵר וְאָמַר לְכָל סָכָל הוּא:

3. w'gam-baderek k'shehasakal holek libo chaser w'amar lakol sakal hu'.

Ecc10:3 And also in the way in which a fool walks, his heart fails,  
and he demonstrates to everyone that he is a fool.

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ד אִם-רוּחַ הַמּוֹשֵׁל תִּעָלֶה עָלֶיךָ מִקּוֹמָךְ אַל-תִּנָּח  
כִּי מִרְפָּא יִנִּיחַ חֲטָאִים גְּדוֹלִים:

4. 'im-ruach hamoshel ta`aleh `aleyak m'qom'ak 'al-tanach  
ki mar'pe' yaniach chata'im g'dolim.

Ecc10:4 If the spirit of the ruler rises up against you, do not leave your place,  
for composure quiets great offenses.

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ה הֵיטָרָעָה רָאִיתִי תַּחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ כְּשֶׁגָּגָה שִׁינָּא מִלְּפָנֵי הַשִּׁלִּיט:

5. yesh ra`ah ra'ithi tachath hashamesh kish'gagah sheyotsa' miliph'ney hashalit.

Ecc10:5 There is an evil I have seen under the sun,  
as an error which goes forth from the ruler's presence.

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ו נָתַן הַסָּכָל בְּמָרוֹמִים רַבִּים וַעֲשִׂירִים בְּנִשְׁכָּל יִשְׁבּוּ:

6. nitan hasekel bam'romim rabbim wa`ashirim bashephel yeshebu.

Ecc10:6 folly is set in many high positions, and the rich men sit in low places.

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ז רָאִיתִי עֲבָדִים עַל-סוּסִים וְשָׂרִים הֹלְכִים כְּעֲבָדִים עַל-הָאָרֶץ:

7. ra'ithi `abadim `al-susim w'sarim hol'kim ka`abadim `al-ha'arets.

Ecc10:7 I have seen servants upon horses and princes walking as servants upon the land.

חֲחִיר גּוֹמֵץ בּוֹ יְפוֹל וּפְרִץ גֵּדֵר יִשְׁכְּנוּ נָחָשׁ:

8. **chopher gumats bo yipol uphorets gader yish'kenu nachash.**

**Ecc10:8** He who digs a pit may fall into it,  
and the one breaking a wall, a serpent may bite him.

ט מְסִיעַ אֲבָנִים יַעֲצֹב בָּהֶם בּוֹקֵעַ יַעֲצִים יִסְכֵּן בָּם:

9. **masi`a 'abanim ye`atseb bahem boqe`a `etsim yisaken bam.**

**Ecc10:9** He who removes stones may be hurt by them,  
and he who splits wood may be endangered by them.

י אִם-קָהָה הַבְּרָזֵל וְהוּא לֹא-פָנִים קִלְקַל  
וּחֲזָלִים יִגְבֵּר וְיִתְרוֹן הַכְּשִׁיר חֲכָמָה:

10. **'im-qegah habar'zel w'hu' lo'-phanim qil'qal  
wachayalim y'gaber w'yith'ron hak'sheyir chak'mah.**

**Ecc10:10** If the iron is blunt and he does not sharpen its edge,  
then he must exert more strength. Wisdom has the advantage of giving success.

יא אִם-יִשְׁדֹּךְ הַנָּחָשׁ בְּלוֹא-לֶחֶשׁ וְאֵין יִתְרוֹן לְבַעַל הַלָּשׁוֹן:

11. **'im-yishok hanachash b'lo'-lachash w'eyn yith'ron l'ba'al halashon.**

**Ecc10:11** If the serpent shall bite without enchantment,  
then there is no advantage for the owner of the tongue.

יב דְּבָרֵי פִי-חָכָם חֵן וְשִׁפְתוֹת כְּסִיל תִּבְלָעֵנּוּ:

12. **dib'rey phi-chakam chen w'siph'thoth k'sil t'bal`enu.**

**Ecc10:12** The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious,  
while the lips of a fool consume him;

יג תְּחִלַּת דְּבָרֵי-פִיהוּ סְכָלוּת וְאַחֲרִית פִּיהוּ חוֹלָלוּת רָעָה:

13. **t'chilath dib'rey-phihiu sik'luth w'acharith pihu holeluth ra`ah.**

**Ecc10:13** the beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness:  
and the end of his mouth is evil madness.

יד וְהִסְכֵּל יִרְבֶּה דְּבָרִים לֹא-יָדַע הָאָדָם מִה-נְשִׂיחָהּ  
וְאֲשֶׁר יִהְיֶה מֵאַחֲרָיו מִי יַגִּיד לוֹ:

14. **w'hasakal yar'beh d'barim lo'-yeda` ha'adam mah-sheyih'yeh  
wa'asher yih'yeh me'acharayu mi yagid lo.**

**Ecc10:14** Yet the fool makes many words;  
A man knows not what shall be, and who can tell him what shall come after him?

טו עֵמֶל הַכְּסִילִים תִּיגַעֵנּוּ אֲשֶׁר לֹא-יָדַע לָלֶכֶת אֶל-עִיר:

15. **`amal hak'silim t'yag`enu 'asher lo'-yada` laleketh 'el-`ir.**

**Ecc10:15** The toil of a fool wearies him that he does not know how to go to a city.

טז אי-לך ארץ שפּלכך נער ושריך בבקר יאכלו:

**16. 'i-lak 'erets shemal'kek na'ar w'sarayi'k baboqer yo'kelu.**

**Ecc10:16** Woe to you, O land, when your king is a lad and your princes eat in the morning.

יז אשריך ארץ שפּלכך בן-חורים  
ושריך בעת יאכלו בגבורה ולא בשתי:

**17. 'ash'reyak 'erets shemal'kek ben-chorim  
w'sarayik ba'eth yo'kelu big'burah w'lo' bash'thi.**

**Ecc10:17** Blessed are you, O land, when your king is the son of nobles,  
and your princes eat in due time for strength and not for drunkenness.

יח בעצלתים ימד המקרה ובשפלות ידים ידלף הבית:

**18. ba'atsal'tayim yimak ham'qareh ub'shiph'luth yadayim yid'loph habayith.**

**Ecc10:18** The building decays through slothfulness;  
and through idleness of the hands, the house leaks.

יט לשחוק עשים לחם ויין ישמח חיים והכסף יענה את-הכל:

**19. lis'choq `osim lechem w'yayin y'samach chayim w'hakeseph ya'aneh 'eth-hakol.**

**Ecc10:19** A bread is prepared for laughter, and wine makes life merry;  
but money answers all things.

כגם במדעך מלך אל-תקלל ובחדרי משכבך  
אל-תקלל עשיר כי עוף השמים יוליך את-הקול  
ובעל הכנפים יגיד דבר:

**20. gam b'mada`ak melek 'al-t'qalel ub'chad'rey mish'kab'ak 'al-t'qalel `ashir  
ki `oph hashamayim yolik 'eth-haqol uba'al hak'naphayim yageyd dabar.**

**Ecc10:20** Also do not curse a king in your thought, and in your bedrooms  
do not curse a rich man, for a bird of the heavens shall carry the sound,  
and which has the wings may tell the matter.

## Chapter 11

א שלח לחמך על-פני המים כי-ברב הימים תמצאנו:

**1. shalach lach'm'ak `al-p'ney hamayim ki-b'rob hayamim tim'tsa'enu.**

**Ecc11:1** Cast your bread on the surface of the waters, for you shall find it after many days.

בתן-חלק לשבעה וגם לשמונה  
כי לא תדע מה-יהיה רעה על-הארץ:

**2. ten-cheleq l'shib'`ah w'gam lish'monah ki lo' theda` mah-yih'yeh ra'ah `al-ha'arets.**

**Ecc11:2** Give a portion to seven, or even to eight,



for you do not know what evil shall be upon the earth.

ג אִם-יִמְלְאוּ הָעָבִים גֶּשֶׁם עַל-הָאָרֶץ יִרְיָקוּ  
וְאִם-יִפֹּל עֵץ בְּדָרוֹם וְאִם בְּצָפוֹן מְקוֹם שְׁיִפֹּל הָעֵץ נָשָׂא יִהְיֶה:

3. 'im-yimal'u he`abim geshem `al-ha'arets yariqu w'im-yipol `ets badarom  
w'im batsaphon m'qom sheyipol ha`ets sham y'hu'.

**Ecc11:3** If the clouds are full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth;  
and if a tree falls toward the south or toward the north,  
in the place where the tree falls, there it shall be.

ד שֹׁמֵר רוּחַ לֹא יִזְרַע וְרֹאֶה בְּעָבִים לֹא יִקְצוֹר:

4. shomer ruach lo' yiz'ra w'ro'eh be`abim lo' yiq'tsor.

**Ecc11:4** He who watches the wind shall not sow  
and he who looks at the clouds shall not reap.

ה כַּאֲשֶׁר אֵינָהּ יוֹדֵעַ מַה-דֶּרֶךְ הָרוּחַ כַּעֲצָמִים בְּבֶטֶן הַמְּלֵאָה  
כָּכָה לֹא תֵדַע אֶת-מַעֲשֵׂה הָאֱלֹהִים אֲשֶׁר יַעֲשֶׂה אֶת-הַכֹּל:

5. ka'asher 'eyn'ak yode`a mah-derek haruach ka`atsamim b'beten ham'le'ah  
kakah lo' theda` 'eth-ma`aseh ha'Elohim 'asher ya`aseh 'eth-hakol.

**Ecc11:5** As you do not know what is the way of the spirit  
nor how the bones are formed in the womb of her who is with child,  
so you do not know the works of the Elohim who makes all things.

ו בַּבֹּקֶר זָרַע אֶת-זֶרְעֶךָ וְלִעֶרֶב אַל-תִּנַּח יָדְךָ כִּי אֵינָהּ יוֹדֵעַ  
אִי זֶה יִכְשֹׁר הַזֶּה אוֹ-זֶה וְאִם-שְׁנֵיהֶם כְּאֶחָד טוֹבִים:

6. baboqer z'ra` 'eth-zar`ek w'la`ereb 'al-tanach yadeak  
ki 'eyn'ak yode` 'ey zeh yik'shar hazeh 'o-zeh w'im-sh'neyhem k'echad tobim.

**Ecc11:6** Sow your seed in the morning and do not withhold your hand in the evening,  
for you do not know whether this shall prosper, either this or that,  
or whether they both shall be alike good.

ז וּמִתּוֹק הָאֹר וְטוֹב לְעֵינַיִם לִרְאוֹת אֶת-הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ:

7. umathoq ha'or w'tob la`eynayim lir'oth 'eth-hashamesh.

**Ecc11:7** The light is pleasant, and it is good for the eyes to see the sun.

ח כִּי אִם-שָׁנִים הִרְבֵּה יִחְיֶה הָאָדָם בְּכָלָם יִשְׂמַח  
וְיִזְכֹּר אֶת-יָמֵי הַחֹשֶׁךְ כִּי-הִרְבֵּה יִהְיוּ כָּל-שָׁבָא הַבָּל:

8. ki 'im-shanim har'beh yich'yeh ha'adam b'kulam yis'mach  
w'yiz'kor 'eth-y'mey hachoshek ki-har'beh yih'yu kal-sheba' habel.

**Ecc11:8** But if a man should live many years, let him rejoice in them all,  
and let him remember the days of darkness, for they shall be many.  
All that to come is vanity.

טִשְׁמַח בְּחֹר בְּיִלְדוּתְךָ וּבִטְיָבָה לְבָבָה בְּיָמֵי בְּחֹר וְתָה  
וְהִלֵּךְ בְּדַרְכֵי לְבָבָה וּבְמַרְאֵי עֵינֶיךָ וְדַע  
כִּי עַל-כָּל-אֵלֶּה יְבִיאֲךָ הָאֱלֹהִים בְּמִשְׁפָּט:

9. s'mach bachur b'yal'dutheyak witib'ak lib'ak bimey b'churothek  
w'halek b'dar'key lib'ak u'b'mar'ey `eyneyak w'da`  
ki `al-kal-`eleh y'bi'ak ha'Elohim bamish'pat.

**Ecc11:9** Rejoice, young man, during your youth,  
and let your heart be pleasant during the days of your youth.  
And walk in the ways of your heart and in the sight of your eyes.  
But know that the Elohim shall bring you to judgment for all these things.

י וְהִסֵּר כַּעַס מִלְּבָבָה וְהַעֲבִיר רָעָה מִבְּשָׂרְךָ  
כִּי-תִילְדוּת וְהַשְׁחָרוֹת הֶבֶל:

10. w'haser ka`as milibeak w'ha`aber ra`ah mib'sarek  
ki-hayal'duth w'hashacharuth habel.

**Ecc11:10** So, remove vexation from your heart and put away pain from your body,  
for childhood and the prime of life are vanity.

## Chapter 12

א וּזְכוֹר אֶת-בּוֹרְאֶיךָ בְּיָמֵי בְּחֹרְתֶיךָ עַד אֲשֶׁר לֹא-יָבֹאוּ  
יָמֵי הָרָעָה וְהִגִּיעוּ שָׁנִים אֲשֶׁר תֹּאמַר אֵין-לִי בָהֶם חֶפֶץ:

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;

ב עַד אֲשֶׁר לֹא-תִחַשֵּׁךְ הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ וְהָאוֹר וְהַיָּרֵחַ וְהַכּוֹכָבִים  
וְשָׁבוּ הָעָבִים אַחֵר 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;

ג בַּיּוֹם שֶׁיָּזְעוּ שֹׁמְרֵי הַבַּיִת וְהַתְּעִיּוֹתֵי אֲנָשֵׁי הַחֵל  
וּבָטְלוּ הַטֹּחָנוֹת כִּי מַעֲטוּ וְחָשְׁכוּ הָרָאוֹת בְּאֶרְבּוֹת:

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;

דּוֹסְגָרוּ דְלָתִים בְּשׁוּק בְּשָׁפֶל קוֹל הַטְחָנָה  
וַיִּקּוּם לְקוֹל הַצִּפּוֹר וַיִּשְׁחוּ כָּל-בָּנוֹת הַנָּשִׁיר:

4. w'sug'ru d'lathayim bashuq bish'phal qol hatachanah w'yaqum l'qol hatsipor  
w'yishachu kal-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.

הַגִּם מִגְבֹּה יִרְאוּ וַחֲתָחִתִּים בַּדֶּרֶךְ וַיִּנָּאֵץ הַנֶּשֶׁקַד וַיִּסְתַּבֵּל הַחֲגָב  
וַתִּפֹּר הָאֲבִיוֹנָה כִּי-חָלַךְ הָאָדָם אֶל-בֵּית עוֹלָמוֹ  
וְסָבְבוּ בְשׁוּק הַסִּפְדִּים:

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.

וְעַד אֲשֶׁר לֹא-יִרְחַק חֶבֶל הַכֶּסֶף וַתִּרְץ גִּלְתַּת הַזָּהָב  
וַתִּשְׁבֶּר כֹּד עַל-הַמְּבוּעַ 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;

זוֹיֵשֵׁב הָעֶפֶר עַל-הָאָרֶץ כְּשֶׁהָיָה  
וַהֲרוֹחַ תָּשׁוּב אֶל-הָאֱלֹהִים אֲשֶׁר נָתַנָּה:

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.

חַ הַבֵּל הַבָּלִים אָמַר הַקּוֹהֵלֶת הַכֹּל הַבֵּל:

8. habel habalim 'amar haqoheleth hakol habel.

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

טוֹיֵתֶר שֶׁהָיָה קוֹהֵלֶת חָכָם עוֹד לְמַד-דַּעַת אֶת-הָעָם  
וְאֵזֶן וַחֲקִיר תִּקֵּן 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.

י בִּקֵּשׁ קֹהֶלֶת לְמַצֹּא דְבָרֵי־חֶפֶץ וְכָתוּב יֵשֶׁר דְּבָרֵי 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.

יֵא דְבָרֵי חֲכָמִים כְּדָרְבָנוֹת

וְכַמְשֻׁמְרוֹת נְטוּעִים בְּעָלֵי אֲסֻפּוֹת נִתְּנוּ מֵרֶעָה 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.

יב וַיִּתֵּר מֵהֶמָּה בְּנֵי הַזֵּהָר עֲשׂוֹת סְפָרִים הַרְבֵּה אֵין קֵץ

וְלַהֲגַ הַרְבֵּה יִגְעַת בָּשָׂר:

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 scrolls has no end, and much study is weariness of the flesh.

יג סוֹף דְּבָר הַכֹּל נִשְׁמַע אֶת־הָאֱלֹהִים

יִרָא וְאֶת־מִצְוֹתָיו שֹׁמֹר 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.

יד כִּי אֶת־כָּל־מַעֲשֵׂה הָאֱלֹהִים יָבֵא בְּמִשְׁפָּט

עַל כָּל־נֶעְלָם 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.