

传道书

Ecclesiastes

第一章

题目

1 在耶路撒冷作王、大卫的儿子、传道者的言语。

序：虚空之极

2 传道者说、虚空的虚空、虚空的虚空、凡事都是虚空。

自然界说明的虚空

3 人一切的劳碌、就是他在日光之下的劳碌、有甚么益处呢。

4 一代过去、一代又来、地却永远长存。

5 日头出来、日头落下、急归所出之地。

6 风往南刮、又向北转、不住的旋转、而且返回转行原道。

7 江河都往海里流、海却不满、江河从何处流、仍归还何处。

8 万事令人厌烦〔或作万物满有困乏〕人不能说尽、眼看、看不饱、耳听、听不足。

9 已有的事、后必再有、已行的事、后必再行、日光之下并无新事。

10 岂有一件事人能指著说、这是新的、那知、在我们以前的世代、早已有了。

11 已过的世代、无人记念、将来的世代、后来的人也不记念。

成就的虚空

12 我传道者在耶路撒冷作过以色列的王。

Title

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

Introduction: Utter Futility

1:2 "Futile! Futile!" laments the Teacher, "Absolutely futile! Everything is futile!"

Futility Illustrated from Nature

1:3 What benefit do people get from all the effort which they expend on earth?

1:4 A generation comes and a generation goes, but the earth remains the same through the ages.

1:5 The sun rises and the sun sets, it hurries away to a place from which it rises again.

1:6 The wind goes to the south and circles around to the north, round and round the wind goes and on its rounds it returns.

1:7 All the streams flow into the sea, but the sea is not full, and to the place where the streams flow, there they will flow again.

1:8 All this monotony is tiresome; no one can bear to describe it:

The eye is never satisfied with seeing, nor is the ear ever content with hearing.

1:9 What exists now is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; there is nothing truly new on earth.

1:10 Is there anything about which someone can say, "Look at this! It is new!?"

It was already done long ago, before our time.

1:11 No one remembers the former events, nor will anyone remember the events that are yet to happen;

they will not be remembered by the future generations.

Futility of Secular Accomplishment

1:12 I, the Teacher, have been king over Israel in Jerusalem.

- 13 我专心用智慧寻求查究天下所作的一切事、乃知 神叫世人所经练的、是极重的劳苦。
- 14 我见日光之下所作的一切事、都是虚空、都是捕风。
- 15 弯曲的不能变直、缺少的不能足数。

聪明的虚空

- 16 我心里议论、说、我得了大智慧、胜过我以前在耶路撒冷的众人、而且我心中多经历智慧、和知识的事。
- 17 我又专心察明智慧、狂妄、和愚昧、乃知这也是捕风。
- 18 因为多有智慧、就多有愁烦、加增知识的、就加增忧伤。

第二章

纵情的虚空

- 1 我心里说、来罢、我以喜乐试试你、你好享福、谁知、这也是虚空。
- 2 我指嬉笑说、这是狂妄、论喜乐说、有何功效呢。
- 3 我心里察究、如何用酒使我肉体舒畅、我心却仍以智慧引导我、又如何持住愚昧、等我看明世人、在天下一生当行何事为美。

财富的虚空

- 4 我为自己动大工程、建造房屋、栽种葡萄园、
- 5 修造园圃、在其中栽种各样果木树、
- 6 挖造水池、用以浇灌嫩小的树木、

- 1:13 I decided to carefully and thoroughly examine all that has been accomplished on earth. I concluded: God has given people a burdensome task that keeps them occupied.
- 1:14 I reflected on everything that is accomplished by man on earth, and I concluded: Everything he has accomplished is futile—like chasing the wind!
- 1:15 What is bent cannot be straightened, and what is missing cannot be supplied.

Futility of Secular Wisdom

- 1:16 I thought to myself, “I have become much wiser than any of my predecessors who ruled over Jerusalem; I have acquired much wisdom and knowledge.”
- 1:17 So I decided to discern the benefit of wisdom and knowledge over foolish behavior and ideas; however, I concluded that even this endeavor is like trying to chase the wind!
- 1:18 For with great wisdom comes great frustration; whoever increases his knowledge merely increases his heartache.

Futility of Self-Indulgent Pleasure

- 2:1 I thought to myself, “Come now, I will try self-indulgent pleasure to see if it is worthwhile.”
- But I found that it also is futile.
- 2:2 I said of partying, “It is folly,” and of self-indulgent pleasure, “It accomplishes nothing!”
- 2:3 I thought deeply about the effects of indulging myself with wine—the whole time my mind was guiding me with wisdom—and the effects of behaving foolishly, so that I might discover what is profitable for people to do on earth during the few days of their lives.

Futility of Materialism

- 2:4 I increased my possessions: I built houses for myself, I planted vineyards for myself.
- 2:5 I designed royal gardens and parks for myself, and I planted all kinds of fruit trees in them.
- 2:6 I constructed pools of water for myself, to irrigate my grove of flourishing trees.

- 7 我买了奴婢、也有生在家中的奴婢·又有许多牛群羊群、胜过以前在耶路撒冷众人所有的·
- 8 我又为自己积蓄金银、和君王的财宝、并各省的财宝·又得唱歌的男女、和世人所喜爱的物、并许多的妃嫔·
- 9 这样、我就日见昌盛、胜过以前在耶路撒冷的众人·我的智慧仍然存留·
- 10 凡我眼所求的、我没有留下不给他的·我心所乐的、我没有禁止不享受的·因我的心为我一切所劳碌的快乐·这就是我从劳碌中所得的分·
- 11 后来我察看我手所经营的一切事、和我劳碌所成的功·谁知都是虚空、都是捕风、在日光之下毫无益处·

智慧胜过愚昧

- 12 我转念观看智慧、狂妄、和愚昧·在王以后而来的人、还能作作甚么呢·也不过行早先所行的就是了·
- 13 我便看出智慧胜过愚昧、如同光明胜过黑暗·
- 14 智慧人的眼目光明、〔光明原文作在他头上〕、愚昧人在黑暗里行·我却看明有一件事、这两等人都必遇见·
- 15 我就心里说、愚昧人所遇见的、我也必遇见·我为何更有智慧呢·我心里说、这也是虚空·
- 16 智慧人、和愚昧人一样、永远无人纪念·因为日后都被忘记·可叹智慧人死亡、与愚昧人无异·
- 17 我所以恨恶生命、因为在日光之下所行的事我都以为烦恼·都是虚空、都是捕风·

- 2:7 I purchased male and female slaves, and I owned slaves who were born in my house; I also possessed more livestock—both herds and flocks—
than any of my predecessors in Jerusalem.
- 2:8 I also amassed silver and gold for myself, as well as valuable treasures taken from kingdoms and provinces.
I acquired male singers and female singers for myself,
as well as what gives man sensual delight—a harem of beautiful concubines.
- 2:9 So I was more wealthy than all my predecessors in Jerusalem,
yet I maintained my objectivity:
- 2:10 I did not hold myself back from getting whatever I wanted,
I did not deny myself anything that would bring me pleasure.
So all my accomplishments gave me joy,
this was my reward for all my effort.
- 2:11 Yet when I reflected on everything I had accomplished
and on all the effort that I had expended to accomplish it,
I concluded: “All these achievements and possessions are ultimately profitless—
like chasing the wind!
There is nothing gained from them on earth.”

Wisdom is Better than Folly

- 2:12 Next, I decided to consider wisdom, as well as foolish behavior and ideas.
For what more can the king’s successor do, except what he has already done?
- 2:13 I realized that wisdom is preferable to folly,
just as light is preferable to darkness:
- 2:14 The wise man can see where he is going, but the fool walks in darkness.
Yet I also realized that the same fate happens to them both.
- 2:15 So I thought to myself, “The fate of the fool will happen even to me!
Then what did I gain by becoming so excessively wise?”
So I lamented to myself,
“The benefits of wisdom are ultimately meaningless!”
- 2:16 For the wise man, like the fool, will not be remembered for very long,
because in the days to come, both will already have been forgotten.
Alas, the wise man dies—just like the fool!
- 2:17 So I loathed life because what happens on earth seems awful to me;
for all the benefits of wisdom are futile—like chasing the wind.

劳碌的虚空

- 18 我恨恶一切的劳碌、就是我在日光之下的劳碌、因为我得来的必留给我以后的人。
- 19 那人是智慧、是愚昧、谁能知道、他竟要管理我劳碌所得的、就是我在日光之下用智慧所得的、这也是虚空。
- 20 故此、我转想我在日光之下所劳碌的一切工作、心便绝望。
- 21 因为有人用智慧知识灵巧所劳碌得来的、却要留给未曾劳碌的人为分、这也是虚空、也是大患。

日劳夜忧

- 22 人在日光之下劳碌累心、在他一切的劳碌上得著甚么呢。
- 23 因为他日日忧虑他的劳苦成为愁烦、连夜间心也不安、这也是虚空。

享受劳碌的果效

- 24 人莫强如吃喝、且在劳碌中享福、我看这也是出于神的手。
- 25 论到吃用、享福、谁能胜过我呢。
- 26 神喜悦谁、就给谁智慧、知识、和喜乐、惟有罪人、神使他劳苦、叫他将所收聚的、所堆积的、归给神所喜悦的人、这也是虚空、也是捕风。

第三章

万事都有定时

- 1 凡事都有定期、天下万务都有定时、
- 2 生有时、死有时、栽种有时、拔出所栽种的、也有时、
- 3 杀戮有时、医治有时、拆毁有时、建造有时、

Futility of Being A Workaholic

- 2:18 So I loathed all the fruit of my effort, for which I worked so hard on earth, because I must leave it behind in the hands of my successor.
- 2:19 Who knows if he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will be master over all the fruit of my labor for which I worked so wisely on earth! This also is futile!
- 2:20 So I began to despair about all the fruit of my labor for which I worked so hard on earth.
- 2:21 For a man may do his work with wisdom, knowledge, and skill; however, he must hand over the fruit of his labor as an inheritance to someone else who did not work for it. This also is futile, and an awful injustice!

Painful Days and Restless Nights

- 2:22 What does a man acquire from all his labor and from the anxiety that accompanies his toil on earth?
- 2:23 For all day long his work produces pain and frustration, and even at night his mind cannot relax! This also is futile!

Enjoy Work and its Benefits

- 2:24 There is nothing better for people than to eat and drink, and to find enjoyment in their work. I also perceived that this ability to find enjoyment comes from God.
- 2:25 For no one can eat and drink or experience joy apart from him.
- 2:26 For to the one who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge, and joy, but to the sinner, he gives the task of amassing wealth—only to give it to the one who pleases God. This task of the wicked is futile—like chasing the wind!

A Time for All Events in Life

- 3:1 For everything there is an appointed time, and an appropriate time for every activity on earth:
- 3:2 A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot what was planted;
- 3:3 A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

- 4 哭有时、笑有时·哀恸有时、跳舞有时·
 5 抛掷石头有时、堆聚石头有时·怀抱有时、不怀抱有时·
 6 寻找有时、失落有时·保守有时、舍弃有时·
 7 撕裂有时、缝补有时·静默有时、言语有时·
 8 喜爱有时、恨恶有时·争战有时、和好有时·

人不能知 神的定时

- 9 这样看来、作事的人在他的劳碌上有甚么益处呢。
 10 我见 神叫世人劳苦、使他们在其中受磨练。
 11 神造万物、各按其时成为美好·又将永生安置在世人心心里·〔永生原文作永远〕然而 神从始至终的作为、人不能参透。

享受现有

- 12 我知道世人、莫强如终身喜乐行善。
 13 并且人人吃喝、在他一切劳碌中享福·这也是 神的恩赐。

神的主权

- 14 我知道 神一切所作的、都必永存、无所增添、无所减少· 神这样行、是要人在他面前存敬畏的心。
 15 现今的事早就有了·将来的事早已也有了·并且 神使已过的事重新再来·〔或作并且 神再寻回已过的事〕

不平与奸恶

- 16 我又见日光之下、在审判之处有奸恶·在公义之处也有奸恶。
 17 我心里说、 神必审判义人和恶人·因为在那里、各样事务、一切工作、都有定时。

- 3:4 A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.
 3:5 A time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones;
 a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
 3:6 A time to search, and a time to give something up as lost;
 a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
 3:7 A time to rip, and a time to sew;
 a time to keep silent, and a time to speak.
 3:8 A time to love, and a time to hate;
 a time for war, and a time for peace.

Man is Ignorant of God's Timing

- 3:9 What benefit can a worker gain from his toil?
 3:10 I have observed the burden that God has given to people to keep them occupied.
 3:11 God has made everything fit beautifully in its appropriate time,
 but he has also placed ignorance in the human heart so that people cannot discover what God has ordained,
 from the beginning to the end of their lives.

Enjoy Life in the Present

- 3:12 I have concluded that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to enjoy themselves as long as they live,
 3:13 and also that everyone should eat and drink, and find enjoyment in all his toil,
 for it is a gift from God.

God's Sovereignty

- 3:14 I also know that whatever God does will endure forever;
 nothing can be added to it, and nothing taken away from it.
 God has made it this way, so that men will fear him.
 3:15 Whatever exists now has already been, and whatever will be has already been;
 for God will seek to do again what has occurred in the past.

The Problem of Injustice and Oppression

- 3:16 I saw something else on earth:
 In the place of justice, there was wickedness,
 and in the place of fairness, there was wickedness.
 3:17 I thought to myself, "God will judge both the righteous and the wicked;
 for there is an appropriate time for every activity,
 and there is a time of judgment for every deed."

- 18 我心里说、这乃为世人的缘故、是 神要试验他们、使他们觉得自己不过像兽一样。
- 19 因为世人遭遇的、兽也遭遇、所遭遇的都是 一样、这个怎样死、那个也怎样死、气息都是一样、人不能强于兽、都是虚空。
- 20 都归一处、都是出于尘土、也都归于尘土。
- 21 谁知道人的灵是往上升、兽的魂是下入地呢。
- 22 故此、我见人、莫强如在他经营的事上喜乐、因为这是他的分、他身后的事、谁能使他回来得见呢。

- 3:18 I also thought to myself, "It is for the sake of people, so God can clearly show them that they are like animals.
- 3:19 For the fate of humans and the fate of animals are the same: As one dies, so dies the other; both have the same breath. There is no advantage for humans over animals, for both are fleeting.
- 3:20 Both go to the same place, both come from the dust, and both return to dust.
- 3:21 Who really knows if the human spirit ascends upward, and the animal's spirit descends into the earth?
- 3:22 So I perceived there is nothing better than for people to enjoy their work, because that is their reward; for who can show him what the future holds?

第四章

世上的欺压

- 1 我又转念、见日光之下所行的一切欺压、看哪、受欺压的流泪、且无人安慰、欺压他们的有势力、也无人安慰他们。
- 2 因此我赞叹那早已死的死人、胜过那还活著的活人、
- 3 并且我以为那未曾生的、就是未见过日光之下恶事的、比这两等人更强。

Evil Oppression on Earth

- 4:1 So I again considered all the oppression that continually occurs on earth. This is what I saw: The oppressed were in tears, but no one was comforting them; no one delivers them from the power of their oppressors.
- 4:2 So I considered those who are dead and gone more fortunate than those who are still alive.
- 4:3 But better than both is the one who has not been born and has not seen the evil things that are done on earth.

嫉忌而行

- 4 我又见人为一切的劳碌、和各样灵巧的工作、就被邻舍嫉妒、这也是虚空、也是捕风。
- 5 愚昧人抱著手、吃自己的肉。
- 6 满了一把、得享安静、强如满了两把、劳碌捕风。

Labor Motivated by Envy

- 4:4 Then I considered all the skillful work that is done: Surely it is nothing more than competition between one man and another. This also is profitless—like chasing the wind.
- 4:5 The fool folds his hands and does no work, so he has nothing to eat but his own flesh.
- 4:6 Better is one handful with some rest than two hands full of toil and chasing the wind.

贪婪而行

- 7 我又转念、见日光之下有一件虚空的事。

Labor Motivated by Greed

- 4:7 So I again considered another futile thing on earth:

8 有人孤单无二、无子无兄、竟劳碌不息、眼目也不以钱财为足。他说我劳碌碌碌、刻苦自己、不享福乐、到底是为谁呢。这也是虚空、是极重的劳苦。

4:8 A man who is all alone with no companion, he has no children nor siblings; yet there is no end to all his toil, and he is never satisfied with riches. He laments, "For whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?" This also is futile and burdensome task!

同劳同享的益处

Labor is Beneficial When Its Rewards Are Shared

9 两个人总比一个人好、因为二人劳碌同得美好的果效。
10 若是跌倒、这人可以扶起他的同伴。若是孤身跌倒、没有别人扶起他来、这人就有祸了。
11 再者、二人同睡、就都暖和。一人独睡、怎能暖和呢。
12 有人攻胜孤身一人、若有二人便能敌挡他。三股合成的绳子、不容易折断。

4:9 Two people are better than one, because they can reap more benefit from their labor.
4:10 For if they fall, one will lift up his companion, but pity the person who falls down and has no one to help him up.
4:11 Furthermore, if two lie together, they can keep each other warm, but how can one person keep warm by himself?
4:12 Although an assailant may overpower one person, two can withstand him. Moreover, a three-strand cord is not quickly broken.

逐誉而行

Labor Motivated by Prestige-Seeking

13 贫穷而有智慧的少年人、胜过年老不肯纳谏的愚昧王。
14 这人是从监牢中出来作王。在他国中、生来原是贫穷的。
15 我见日光之下一切行动的活人、都随从那第二位、就是起来代替老王的少年人。
16 他所治理的众人、就是他的百姓、多得无数。在他后来的人、尚且不喜悦他。这真是虚空、也是捕风。

4:13 A poor but wise youth is better than an old and foolish king who no longer knows how to receive advice.
4:14 For he came out of prison to become king, even though he had been born poor in what would become his kingdom.
4:15 I considered all the living who walk on earth, as well as the second one who would arise in his place.
4:16 There is no end to all the people nor to the past generations, yet future generations will not rejoice in him. This also is profitless and like chasing the wind.

第五章

随便的许愿

Rash Vows

1 你到神的殿、要谨慎脚步。因为近前听、胜过愚昧人献祭、〔或作胜过献愚昧人的祭〕、他们本不知道所作的是恶。
2 你在神面前不可冒失开口、也不可心急发言。因为神在天上、你在地下、所以你的言语要寡少。
3 事务多、就令人作梦、言语多、就显出愚昧。

5:1 Be careful what you do when you go to the temple of God; draw near to listen rather than to offer a sacrifice like fools, for they do not realize that they are doing wrong.
5:2 Do not be rash with your mouth or hasty in your heart to bring up a matter before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth! Therefore, let your words be few.
5:3 Just as dreams come when there are many cares, so the rash vow of a fool occurs when there are many words.

- 4 你向 神许愿、偿还不可迟延·因他不喜悦愚昧人·所以你许的愿应当偿还。
- 5 你许愿不还、不如不许。
- 6 不可任你的口使肉体犯罪·也不可在祭司〔原文作使者〕面前说是错许了·为何使神因你的声音发怒、败坏你手所作的呢。
- 7 多梦和多言、其中多有虚幻·你只要敬畏神。

贪污枉法

- 8 你若在一省之中见穷人受欺压、并夺去公义公平的事、不要因此诧异·因有一位高过居高位的监察·在他们以上还有更高的。
- 9 况且地的益处归众人·就是君王也受田地的供应。

贪财的虚空

- 10 贪爱银子的、不因得银子知足·贪爱丰富的、也不因得利益知足·这也是虚空。
- 11 货物增添、吃的人也增添·物主得甚么益处呢、不过眼看而已。
- 12 劳碌的人、不拘吃多吃少、睡得香甜·富足人的丰满、却不容他睡觉。

享财非享人生

- 13 我见日光之下、有一宗大祸患、就是财主积存钱财、反害自己·
- 14 因遭遇祸患、这些钱财就消灭·那人若生了儿子、手里也一无所有。
- 15 他怎样从母胎赤身而来、也必照样赤身而去·他所劳碌得来的、手中分毫不能带去。
- 16 他来的情形怎样、他去的情形也怎样·这也是一宗大祸患·他为风劳碌有甚么益处呢。
- 17 并且他终身在黑暗中吃喝、多有烦恼、又有病患呕气。

5:4 When you make a vow to God, do not delay in paying it.

For God takes no pleasure in fools:

Pay what you vow!

5:5 It is better for you not to vow than to vow and not pay it.

5:6 Do not let your mouth cause you to sin, and do not tell the priest, "It was a mistake!"

Why make God angry at you so that he would destroy the work of your hands?"

5:7 Just as there is futility in many dreams, so also in many words.

Therefore, fear God!

Government Corruption

5:8 If you see the extortion of the poor, or the perversion of justice and fairness in the government,

do not be astonished by the matter.

For the high official is watched by a higher official, and there are higher ones over them!

5:9 The produce of the land is seized by all of them, even the king is served by the fields.

Covetousness

5:10 The one who loves money will never be satisfied with money, he who loves wealth will never be satisfied with his income.

This also is futile.

5:11 When someone's prosperity increases, those who consume it also increase; so what does its owner gain, except that he gets to see it with his eyes?

5:12 The sleep of the laborer is pleasant—whether he eats little or much—but the wealth of the rich will not allow him to sleep.

Materialism Thwarts Enjoyment of Life

5:13 Here is a misfortune on earth that I have seen: Wealth hoarded by its owner to his own misery.

5:14 Then that wealth was lost through bad luck; although he fathered a son, he does not have anything left to give him.

5:15 Just as he came forth from his mother's womb, naked will he return as he came, and he will take nothing in his hand that he may carry away from his toil.

5:16 This is another misfortune:

Just as he came, so will he go.

What did he gain from toiling for the wind?

5:17 Surely, he ate in darkness every day of his life, and he suffered greatly with sickness and anger.

享受劳碌的果效

- 18 我所见为善为美的、就是人在 神赐他一生的日子吃喝、享受日光之下劳碌得来的好处、因为这是他的分。
- 19 神赐人钱财丰富、使他能以吃用、能取自己的分、在他劳碌中喜乐、这乃是 神的恩赐。
- 20 他不多思念自己一生的年日、因为 神应他的心使他喜乐。

第六章

人生非人人皆享

- 1 我见日光之下有一宗祸患、重压在人身上。
- 2 就是人蒙 神赐他钱财、丰富、尊荣、以致他心里所愿的一样都不缺、只是 神使他不能吃用、反有外人来吃用、这是虚空、也是祸患。
- 3 人若生一百个儿子、活许多岁数、以致他的年日甚多、心里却不得满享福乐、又不得埋葬、据我说、那不到期而落的胎比他倒好。
- 4 因为虚虚而来、暗暗而去、名字被黑暗遮蔽。
- 5 并且没有见过天日、也毫无知觉、这胎、比那人倒享安息。
- 6 那人虽然活千年、再活千年、却不享福、众人岂不都归一个地方去么。
- 7 人的劳碌都为口腹、心里却不知足。
- 8 这样看来、智慧人比愚昧人有甚么长处呢、穷人在众人面前知道如何行、有甚么长处呢。

Enjoy the Fruit of Your Labor

- 5:18** I have seen personally what is the only beneficial and appropriate course of action for people: to eat and drink, and find enjoyment in all their hard work on earth during the few days of their life which God has given them, for this is their reward.
- 5:19** To every man to whom God has given wealth, and possessions, he has also given him the ability to eat from them, to receive his reward and to find enjoyment in his toil; this is the gift of God.
- 5:20** For he does not think much about the fleeting days of his life because God keeps him preoccupied with the joy he derives from his activity.

Not Everyone Enjoys Life

- 6:1** Here is another misfortune that I have seen on earth, and it weighs heavily on people:
- 6:2** God gives a man riches, property, and wealth so that he lacks nothing that his heart desires, yet God does not enable him to enjoy the fruit of his labor— instead, someone else enjoys it! This is fruitless and a grave misfortune.
- 6:3** Even if a man fathers a hundred children and lives many years— even if he lives long, long time, but cannot enjoy his prosperity— even if he were to live forever— I would say, “A stillborn child is better off than him!”
- 6:4** Though the stillborn child came into the world for no reason and departed into darkness, though its name is shrouded in darkness,
- 6:5** though it never saw the light of day nor knew anything, yet it has more rest than that man—
- 6:6** if he should live a thousand years twice, yet does not enjoy his prosperity. For both of them die!
- 6:7** All of man’s labor is for nothing more than to fill his stomach— yet his appetite is never satisfied!
- 6:8** So what advantage does a wise man have over a fool? And what advantage does a pauper gain by knowing how to survive?

9 眼睛所看的、比心里妄想的倒好·这也是虚空、也是捕风。

人生之虚幻

10 先前所有的、早已起了名·并知道何为人·他也不能与那比自己力大的相争。

11 加增虚浮的事既多、这与人有甚么益处呢。

12 人一生虚度的日子、就如影儿经过·谁知道甚么与他有益呢·谁能告诉他身后在日光之下有甚么事呢。

6:9 It is better to be content with what the eyes can see than for one's heart to always crave more. This continual longing is futile—like chasing the wind.

The Futile Way Life Works

6:10 Whatever has happened was foreordained, and what happens to man was also foreknown. It is useless for him to argue with God about his fate because God is more powerful than he is.

6:11 The more man argues with words, the less he accomplishes.

How does that benefit him?

6:12 For no one knows what is best for a man during his life—

during the few days of his fleeting life—for they pass away like a shadow.

Nor can anyone tell him what the future will hold for him on earth.

第七章

人生苦短

1 名誉强如美好的膏油·人死的日子、胜过人生的日子。

2 往遭丧的家去、强如往宴乐的家去、因为死是众人的结局·活人也必将这事放在心上。

3 忧愁强如喜笑、因为面带愁容终必使心喜乐。

4 智慧人的心、在遭丧之家·愚昧人的心、在快乐之家。

智愚之别

5 听智慧人的责备、强如听愚昧人的歌唱。

6 愚昧人的笑声、好像锅里烧荆棘的爆声、这也是虚空。

困境倾覆智慧

7 勒索使智慧人变为愚妄·贿赂能败坏人的慧心。

8 事情的终局、强如事情的起头·存心忍耐的、胜过居心骄傲的。

Life is Brief and Death is Certain!

7:1 A good reputation is better than precious perfume; likewise, the day of one's death is better than the day of one's birth.

7:2 It is better to go to a funeral than a feast.

For death is the destiny of every person, and the living should take this to heart.

7:3 Sorrow is better than laughter, because sober reflection is good for the heart.

7:4 The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of merrymaking.

Frivolous Living Versus Wisdom

7:5 It is better for a man to receive a rebuke from wise men

than to listen to the song of fools.

7:6 For like the crackling of quick-burning thorns under a cooking pot,

so is the laughter of the fool.

This kind of folly also is useless.

Human Wisdom Overturned by Adversity

7:7 Surely oppression can turn a wise man into a fool;

likewise, a bribe corrupts the heart.

7:8 The end of a matter is better than its beginning; likewise, patience is better than pride.

- 9 你不要心里急躁恼怒、因为恼怒存在愚昧人的怀中。
 10 不要说、先前的日子强过如今的日子、是甚么缘故呢、你这样问、不是出于智慧。

智慧延寿

- 11 智慧和产业并好、而且见天日的人、得智慧更为有益。
 12 因为智慧护庇人、好像银钱护庇人一样、惟独智慧能保全智慧人的生命、这就是知识的益处。

智慧洞明 神的掌管

- 13 你要察看 神的作为、因 神使为曲的、谁能变为直呢。
 14 遇亨通的日子、你当喜乐、遭患难的日子、你当思想、因为 神使这两样并列、为的是叫人查不出身后有甚么事。

报应之例外

- 15 有义人行义、反致灭亡、有恶人行恶、倒享长寿、这都是我在虚度之日中所见过的。
 16 不要行义过分、也不要过于自逞智慧、何必自取败亡呢。
 17 不要行恶过分、也不要为人愚昧、何必不到期而死呢。
 18 你持守这个为美、那个也不要松手、因为敬畏 神的人、必从这两样出来。

因无义人故需智慧

- 19 智慧使有智慧的人、比城中十个官长更有能力。
 20 时常行善而不犯罪的义人、世上实在没有。
 21 人所说的一切话、你不要放在心上、恐怕听见你的仆人咒诅你。
 22 因为你心里知道、自己也曾屡次咒诅别人。

- 7:9 Do not let yourself become quickly provoked, for anger resides in the lap of fools.
 7:10 Do not say, "Why were the old days better than these days?" for it is not wise to ask that.

Wisdom Can Lengthen One's Life

- 7:11 Wisdom, like an inheritance, is a good thing; it benefits those who see the light of day.
 7:12 For wisdom provides protection, just as money provides protection. But the advantage of knowledge is this: Wisdom preserves the life of its owner.

Wisdom Acknowledges God's Orchestration of Life

- 7:13 Consider the work of God: For who can make straight what he has bent?
 7:14 In times of prosperity be joyful, but in times of adversity consider this: God has made one as well as the other, so that no one can discover what the future holds.

Exceptions to the Law of Retribution

- 7:15 During the days of my fleeting life I have seen both of these things: Sometimes a righteous man dies prematurely in spite of his righteousness, and sometimes a wicked man lives long in spite of his evil deeds.
 7:16 So do not be excessively righteous or excessively wise; otherwise you might be disappointed.
 7:17 Do not be excessively wicked and do not be a fool; otherwise you might die before your time.
 7:18 It is best to take hold of one warning without letting go of the other warning; for the one who fears God will follow both warnings.

Wisdom Needed Because No One is Truly Righteous

- 7:19 Wisdom gives a wise man more protection than ten rulers in a city.
 7:20 For there is not one truly righteous man on the earth who continually does good and never sins.
 7:21 Also, do not pay attention to everything that people say; otherwise, you might even hear your servant cursing you.
 7:22 For you know in your own heart that you also have cursed others many times.

人智之穷

- 23 我曾用智慧试验这一切事·我说、要得智慧、智慧却离我远。
- 24 万事之理、离我甚远、而且最深、谁能测透呢。

世上无真义和真智

- 25 我转念、一心要知道、要考察、要寻求智慧、和万事的理由·又要知道邪恶为愚昧、愚昧为狂妄。
- 26 我得知有等妇人、比死还苦、他的心是网罗、手是锁链·凡蒙 神喜悦的人、必能躲避他·有罪的人、却被他缠住了。
- 27 传道者说、看哪、一千男子中、我找到一个正直人·但众女子中、没有找到一个·我将这事一一比较、要寻求其理、我心仍要寻找、却未曾找到。
- 28
- 29 我所找到的、只有一件、就是 神造人原是正直、但他们寻出许多巧计。

第八章

掌权者同证人智之限

- 1 谁如智慧人呢·谁知道事情的解释呢·人的智慧使他的脸发光、并使他脸上的暴气改变。
- 2 我劝你遵守王的命令·既指 神起誓、理当如此。
- 3 不要急躁离开王的面前·不要固执行恶·因为他凡事都随自己的心意而行。
- 4 王的话本有权力、谁敢问他说、你作甚么呢。
- 5 凡遵守命令的、必不经历祸患·智慧人的心、能辨明时候和定理。〔原文作审判下节同〕

Human Wisdom is Limited

- 7:23 I have examined all this by wisdom; I said, "I am determined to comprehend this"—but it was beyond my grasp.
- 7:24 Whatever has happened is beyond human understanding; it is far deeper than man can fathom.

True Righteousness and Wisdom are Virtually Non-existent

- 7:25 I tried to understand, examine, and comprehend the role of wisdom in the scheme of things, and to understand the stupidity of wickedness and the insanity of folly.
- 7:26 I discovered this:
More bitter than death is the kind of woman who is like a hunter's snare;
her heart is like a hunter's net and her hands are like prison chains.
The man who pleases God escapes her, but the sinner is captured by her.
- 7:27 The Teacher says:
I discovered this while trying to discover the scheme of things, item by item.
- 7:28 What I have continually sought, I have not found;
I have found only one upright man among a thousand,
but I have not found one upright woman among all of them.
- 7:29 This alone have I discovered: God made mankind upright, but they have sought many evil schemes.

Human Government Demonstrates Limitations of Wisdom

- 8:1 Who is a wise man? Who knows the solution to a problem?
A man's wisdom brightens his appearance, and softens his harsh countenance.
- 8:2 Obey the king's command, because you took an oath before God to be loyal to him.
- 8:3 Do not rush out of the king's presence in haste—do not delay when the matter is unpleasant, for he can do whatever he pleases.
- 8:4 Surely the king's authority is absolute; no one can say to him, "What are you doing?"
- 8:5 Whoever obeys his command will not experience harm, and a wise man knows the proper time and procedure.

- 6 各样事务成就、都有时候和定理·因为人的苦难、重压在他身上。
- 7 他不知道将来的事、因为将来如何、谁能告诉他呢。
- 8 无人有权力掌管生命、将生命留住·也无人有权力掌管死期·这场争战、无人能免·邪恶也不能救那好行邪恶的人。
- 9 这一切我都见过·也专心查考日光之下所作的一切事·有时这人管辖那人、令人受害。

报应之反证

- 10 我见恶人埋葬、归入坟墓·又见行正直事的、离开圣地、在城中被人忘记·这也是虚空。
- 11 因为断定罪名、不立刻施刑、所以世人满心作恶。
- 12 罪人虽然作恶百次、倒享长久的年日·然而我准知道、敬畏神的、就是在他面前敬畏的人、终久必得福乐。
- 13 恶人却不得福乐、也不得长久的年日·这年日好像影儿、因他不敬畏神。
- 14 世上有一件虚空的事、就是义人所遭遇的、反照恶人所行的·又有恶人所遭遇的、反照义人所行的·我说·这也是虚空。

人生虽不公仍要享受

- 15 我就称赞快乐、原来人在日光之下、莫强如吃喝快乐·因为他在日光之下、神赐他一生的年日、要从劳碌中、时常享受所得的。

人智之有限

- 16 我专心求智慧、要看世上所作的事·（有昼夜不睡觉、不合眼的）
- 17 我就看明神一切的作为·知道人查不出日光之下所作的事·任凭他费多少力寻查、都查不出来·就是智慧人虽想知道、也是查不出来。

- 8:6 For there is a proper time and procedure for every matter,
for the oppression of the king is severe upon his victim.
- 8:7 Surely no one knows the future,
and no one can tell another person what will happen.
- 8:8 Just as no one has power over the wind to restrain it,
so no one has power over the day of his death.
Just as no one can be discharged during the battle,
so wickedness cannot rescue the wicked.
- 8:9 While applying my mind to everything that happens in this world, I have seen all this:
Sometimes one man dominates other men to their harm.

Contradictions to the Law of Retribution

- 8:10 Not only that, but I have seen the wicked approaching and entering the temple,
and as they left the holy temple, they boasted in the city that they had done so.
This also is an enigma.
- 8:11 When a sentence is not executed at once against a crime,
the human heart is encouraged to do evil.
- 8:12 Even though a sinner might commit a hundred crimes and still live a long time,
yet I know that it will go well with God-fearing people—for they stand in fear before him.
- 8:13 But it will not go well with the wicked,
nor will they prolong their days like a shadow,
because they do not stand in fear before God.
- 8:14 Here is another enigma that occurs on earth:
Sometimes there are righteous men who get what the wicked deserve,
and sometimes there are wicked men who get what the righteous deserve.
I said, “This also is an enigma.”

Enjoy Life In Spite of Its Injustices

- 8:15 So I recommend the enjoyment of life,
for there is nothing better on earth for man to do except to eat, drink, and enjoy life.
So joy will accompany him in his toil during the days of his life which God gives him on earth.

Limitations of Human Wisdom

- 8:16 When I tried to gain wisdom
and to observe the activity on earth—
even though it prevents anyone from sleeping day or night—
- 8:17 then I discerned all that God has done:
No one really comprehends what happens on earth.
Despite all human efforts to discover it, no one can ever grasp it.
Even if a wise man claimed that he understood,
he would not really comprehend it.

第九章

人皆有死

- 1 我将这一切事放在心上、详细考究、就知道义人和智慧人、并他们的作为、都在神手中、或是爱、或是恨、都在他们的前面、人不能知道。
- 2 凡临到众人的事、都是一样、义人和恶人、都遭遇一样的事、好人、洁净人和不洁净人、献祭的与不献祭的、也是一样、好人如何、罪人也如何、起誓的如何、怕起誓的也如何。
- 3 在日光之下所行的一切事上、有一件祸患、就是众人所遭遇的、都是一样、并且世人的心、充满了恶、活著的时候心里狂妄、后来就归死人那里去了。

活穷人胜过死财主

- 4 与一切活人相连的、那人还有指望、因为活著的狗、比死了的狮子更强。
- 5 活著的人、知道必死、死了的人、毫无所知、也不再得赏赐、他们的名无人纪念。
- 6 他们的爱、他们的恨、他们的嫉妒、早都消灭了、在日光之下所行的一切事上、他们永不再有了。

人生苦短更应乐渡

- 7 你只管去欢欢喜喜吃你的饭、心中快乐喝你的酒、因为神已经悦纳你的作为。
- 8 你的衣服当时常洁白、你头上也不要缺少膏油。
- 9 在你一生虚空的年日、就是神赐你在日光之下虚空的年日、当同你所爱的妻、快活度日、因为那是你生前、在日光之下劳碌的事上所得的分。
- 10 凡你手所当作的事、要尽力去作、因为在你所必去的阴间、没有工作、没有谋算、没有知识、也没有智慧。

Everyone Will Die

- 9:1 So I reflected on all this, attempting to clear it all up.
I concluded that the righteous and the wise, as well as their works, are in the hand of God; whether he will be loved or hated—no one knows what lies ahead.
- 9:2 Everyone shares the same fate—the righteous and the wicked, the good and the bad, the ceremonially clean and unclean, those who offer sacrifices and those who do not. What happens to the good person, also happens to the sinner; what happens to those who make vows, also happens to those who are afraid to make vows.
- 9:3 This is the unfortunate fact about everything that happens on earth: the same fate awaits everyone. In addition to this, the hearts of all people are full of evil, and there is folly in their hearts during their lives—then they die.

Better to Be Poor but Alive than Rich but Dead

- 9:4 But whoever is among the living has hope; a live dog is better than a dead lion.
- 9:5 For the living know that they will die, but the dead do not know anything; they have no further reward—and even the memory of them disappears.
- 9:6 What they loved, as well as what they hated and envied, perished long ago, and they no longer have a part in anything that happens on earth.

Life is Brief, so its Joys Should be Cherished

- 9:7 Go, eat your food with joy, and drink your wine with a happy heart, because God has already approved your works.
- 9:8 Let your clothes always be white, and do not spare precious ointment on your head.
- 9:9 Enjoy life with your beloved wife during all the days of your fleeting life that God has given you on earth during all your fleeting days; for that is your reward in life and in your burdensome work on earth.
- 9:10 Whatever you find to do with your hands, do it with all your might, because there is neither work nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom in the grave, the place where you will eventually go.

智慧不能保障忽临之事

- 11 我又转念、见日光之下、快跑的未必能赢、力战的未必得胜、智慧的未必得粮食、明哲的未必得货财、灵巧的未必得喜悦、所临到众人的、是在乎当时的机会。
- 12 原来人也不知道自己的定期、鱼被恶网圈住、鸟被网罗捉住、祸患忽然临到的时候、世人陷在其中、也是如此。

常人不受智慧

- 13 我见日光之下有一样智慧、据我看乃是广大、
- 14 就是有一小城、其中的人数稀少、有大君王来攻击、修筑营垒、将城围困、
- 15 城中有一个贫穷的智慧人、他用智慧救了那城、却没有人记念那穷人、
- 16 我就说、智慧胜过勇力、然而那贫穷人的智慧、被人藐视、他的话也无人听从。

智慧有别于愚妄及罪

- 17 宁可在安静之中听智慧人的言语、不听掌管愚昧人的喊声。
- 18 智慧胜过打仗的兵器、但一个罪人、能败坏许多善事。

第十章

- 1 死苍蝇、使作香的膏油发出臭气、这样、一点愚昧、也能败坏智慧和尊荣。

掌权者的任性能败坏智慧

- 2 智慧人的心居右、愚昧人的心居左。
- 3 并且愚昧人行路、显出无知、对众人说、他是愚昧人。
- 4 掌权者的心、若向你发怒、不要离开你的本位、因为柔和能免大过。

Wisdom Cannot Protect against Seemingly Chance Events

- 9:11 Again, I observed this on the earth: the race is not always won by the swiftest, the battle is not always won by the strongest; prosperity does not always belong to those who are the wisest, wealth does not always belong to those who are the most discerning, nor does success always come to those with the most knowledge— for time and chance may overcome them all.
- 9:12 Surely, no one knows his appointed time! Like fish that are caught in a deadly net, and like birds that are caught in a snare— just like them, all people are ensnared at an unfortunate time that falls upon them suddenly.

Most People Are Not Receptive to Wise Counsel

- 9:13 This is what I also observed about wisdom on earth, and it is a great burden to me:
- 9:14 There was once a small city with a few men in it, and a mighty king attacked it, besieging it and building strong siege works against it.
- 9:15 However, a poor but wise man lived in the city, and he could have delivered the city by his wisdom, but no one listened to that poor man.
- 9:16 So I concluded that wisdom is better than might, but a poor man's wisdom is despised; no one ever listens to his advice.

Wisdom versus Fools, Sin, and Folly

- 9:17 The words of the wise are heard in quiet, more than the shouting of a ruler is heard among fools.
- 9:18 Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner can destroy much that is good.

Wisdom Can Be Nullified By the Caprice of Rulers

- 10:2 A wise man's good sense protects him, but a fool's lack of sense leaves him vulnerable.
- 10:3 Even when a fool walks along the road he lacks sense, and shows everyone what a fool he is.
- 10:4 If the anger of the ruler flares up against you, do not resign from your position, for a calm response can undo great offenses.

- 5 我见日光之下、有一件祸患、似乎出于掌权的错误、
6 就是愚昧人立在高位、富足人坐在低位。
7 我见过仆人骑马、王子像仆人在地上步行。

智慧能转危为安

- 8 挖陷坑的、自己必掉在其中、拆墙垣的、必为蛇所咬。
9 凿开〔或作挪移〕石头的、必受损伤、劈开木头的、必遭危险。
10 铁器钝了、若不将刃磨快、就必多费气力、但得智慧指教、便有益处。
11 未行法术以先、蛇若咬人、后行法术也是无益。

智慧言行

- 12 智慧人的口、说出恩言、愚昧人的嘴、吞灭自己。
13 他口中的言语、起头是愚昧、他话的末尾、是奸恶的狂妄。
14 愚昧人多有言语、人却不知将来有甚么事、他身后的事、谁能告诉他呢。
15 凡愚昧人、他的劳碌使自己困乏、因为连进城的路他也不知道。

愚君之误

- 16 邦国阿、你的王若是孩童、你的群臣早晨宴乐、你就有祸了。
17 邦国阿、你的王若是贵胄之子、你的群臣按时吃喝、为要补力、不为酒醉、你就有福了。
18 因人懒惰、房顶塌下、因人手懒、房屋滴漏。
19 设摆筵席、是为喜笑、酒能使人快活、钱能叫万事应心。
20 你不可咒诅君王、也不可心怀此念、在你卧房也不可咒诅富户、因为空中的鸟、必传扬这声音、有翅膀的、也必述说这事。

10:5 I have seen another misfortune on the earth: it is an error a ruler makes.

10:6 Fools are placed in many positions of authority, while wealthy men sit in lowly positions.

10:7 I have seen servants on horseback, and princes walking on foot like servants.

Wisdom is Needed to Avert Dangers in Everyday Life

10:8 One who digs a pit may fall into it, and one who breaks through a wall may be bitten by a snake.

10:9 One who quarries stones may be injured by them; one who splits logs may be endangered by them.

10:10 If an iron axhead is blunt and a workman does not sharpen its edge,

he must exert a great deal of effort; so wisdom has the advantage of giving success.

10:11 If the snake should bite before it is charmed, the snake charmer is in trouble.

Words and Works of Wise Men and Fools

10:12 The words of a wise man win him favor, but the words of a fool are self-destructive.

10:13 At the beginning his words are foolish and at the end his talk is wicked madness,

10:14 yet a fool keeps on babbling.

No one knows what will happen; who can tell him what will happen in the future?

10:15 The toil of a stupid fool wears him out, because he does not even know the way to the city.

The Problem with Foolish Rulers

10:16 Woe to you, O land, when your king is childish,

and your princes feast in the morning!

10:17 Blessed are you, O land, when your king is the son of nobility,

and your princes feast at the proper time—with self-control and not in drunkenness.

10:18 Because of laziness the roof caves in, and because of idle hands the house leaks.

10:19 Feasts are made for laughter, and wine makes life merry, but money is the answer for everything.

10:20 Do not curse a king even in your thoughts, and do not curse the rich while in your bedroom; for a bird might report what you are thinking, or some winged creature might repeat your words.

第十一章

为未知的将来奋力于目前

- 1 当将你的粮食撒在水面、因为日久必能得著。
- 2 你要分给七人、或分给八人、因为你不知道将来有甚么灾祸临到地上。
- 3 云若满了雨、就必倾倒在地球上、树若向南倒、或向北倒、树倒在何处、就存在何处。
- 4 看风的必不撒种、望云的必不收割。
- 5 风从何道来、骨头在怀孕妇人的胎中如何长成、你尚且不得知道、这样、行万事之神的作为、你更不得知道。
- 6 早晨要撒你的种、晚上也不要歇你的手、因为你不知道那一样发旺、或是早撒的、或是晚撒的、或是两样都好。

人生既短应常快乐

- 7 光是佳美的、眼见日光也是可悦的。
- 8 人活多年、就当快乐多年、然而也当想到黑暗的日子、因为这日子必多、所要来的都是虚空。

敬畏 神享受人生

- 9 少年人哪、你在幼年时当快乐、在幼年的日子、使你的心欢畅、行你心所愿行的、看你眼所爱看的、却要知道、为这一切的事、神必审问你。
- 10 所以你当从心中除掉愁烦、从肉体克去邪恶、因为一生的开端、和幼年之时、都是虚空的。

Ignorance of the Future Demands Diligence in the Present

- 11:1** Send your grain overseas,
for after many days you will get a return.
- 11:2** Divide your merchandise among seven or even eight investments,
for you do not know what calamity may happen on earth.
- 11:3** If the clouds are full of rain, they will empty themselves on the earth,
and whether a tree falls to the south or to the north, the tree will lie wherever it falls.
- 11:4** He who watches the wind will not sow,
and he who observes the clouds will not reap.
- 11:5** Just as you do not know the path of the wind,
or how the bones form in the womb of a pregnant woman,
so you do not know the work of God who makes everything.
- 11:6** Sow your seed in the morning,
and do not stop working until the evening;
for you do not know which activity will succeed—
whether this one or that one, or whether both will prosper equally.

Life Should Be Savored Because Death is Imminent

- 11:7** Light is sweet,
and it is pleasant for a person to see the sun.
- 11:8** So, if a man lives many years, let him rejoice in them all,
but let him remember that the days of darkness will be many—all that is about to come is obscure.

Enjoy Life to the Fullest under the Fear of God

- 11:9** Rejoice, young man, while you are young,
and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth.
Follow the impulses of your heart and the desires of your eyes,
but know that God will judge your motives and actions.
- 11:10** Banish emotional stress from your mind,
and put away pain from your body;
for youth and the prime of life are fleeting.

第十二章

敬畏 神因衰败不远

- 1 你趁著年幼、衰败的日子尚未来到、就是
你所说、我毫无喜乐的那些年日未曾临近
之先、当記念造你的主。
- 2 不要等到日头、光明、月亮、星宿、变为
黑暗、雨后云彩反回、
- 3 看守房屋的发颤、有力的屈身、推磨的稀
少就止息、从窗户往外看的都昏暗、
- 4 街门关闭、推磨的响声微小、雀鸟一叫、
人就起来、歌唱的女子、也都衰微、
- 5 人怕高处、路上有惊慌、杏树开花、蚱蜢
成为重担、人所愿的也都废掉、因为人归
他永远的家、吊丧的在街上往来、
- 6 银链折断、金罐破裂、瓶子在泉旁损坏、
水轮在井口破烂、
- 7 尘土仍归于地、灵仍归于赐灵的 神。

结语：传道者重申主题

- 8 传道者说、虚空的虚空、凡事都是虚空。

后跋：传道者训言的智慧

- 9 再者、传道者因有智慧、仍将知识教训众
人、又默想、又考查、又陈说许多箴言。
- 10 传道者专心寻求可喜悦的言语、是凭正直
写的诚实话。
- 11 智慧人的言语、好像刺棍、会中之师的言
语、又像钉稳的钉子、都是一个牧者所赐
的。

劝勉：敬畏 神并守诫命

- 12 我儿、还有一层、你当受劝戒、著书多、
没有穷尽、读书多、身体疲倦。

Fear God Now Because Old Age and Death Come Quickly

- 12:1 So remember your Creator in the days of your youth—
before the difficult days come,
and the years draw near when you will say, “I have no pleasure in them”;
- 12:2 before the sun and the light of the moon and the stars grow dark,
and the clouds disappear after the rain;
- 12:3 when those who keep watch over the house begin to tremble,
and the virile men begin to stoop over,
and the grinders begin to cease because they grow few,
and those who look through the windows grow dim,
- 12:4 and the doors along the street are shut;
when the sound of the grinding mill grows low,
and one is awakened by the sound of a bird,
and all their songs grow faint,
- 12:5 and they are afraid of heights and the dangers in the street;
the almond blossoms grow white,
and the grasshopper drags itself along,
and the caper berry shrivels up—
because man goes to his eternal home,
and the mourners go about in the streets—
- 12:6 before the silver cord is removed,
or the golden bowl is broken,
or the pitcher is shattered at the well,
or the water wheel is broken at the cistern—
- 12:7 and the dust returns to the earth as it was,
and the life’s breath returns to God who gave it.

Concluding Refrain: Qoheleth Restates His Thesis

- 12:8 “Absolutely futile!” laments the Teacher,
“All of these things are futile!”

Concluding Epilogue: Qoheleth’s Advice is Wise

- 12:9 Not only was the Teacher wise,
but he also taught knowledge to the people;
he carefully evaluated and arranged many proverbs.
- 12:10 The Teacher sought to find delightful words,
and to write accurately truthful sayings.
- 12:11 The words of the sages are like prods,
and the collected sayings are like firmly fixed nails;
they are given by one shepherd.

Concluding Exhortation: Fear God and Obey His Commands!

- 12:12 Be warned, my son, of anything in addition to them.
There is no end to the making of many books,
and much study is wearisome to the body.

- 13 这些事都已听见了·总意就是敬畏 神、
谨守他的诫命、这是人所当尽的本分。
〔或作这是众人的本分〕
- 14 因为人所作的事、连一切隐藏的事、无论
是善是恶、 神都必审问。

12:13 Having heard everything, I have reached this
conclusion:

Fear God and keep his commandments,
for this is the whole duty of man.

12:14 For God will evaluate every deed,
including every secret thing, whether good or evil.