

## 傳道書

## Ecclesiastes

## 第一章

## 題目

1 在耶路撒冷作王、大衛的兒子、傳道者的言語。

## 序：虛空之極

2 傳道者說、虛空的虛空、虛空的虛空、凡事都是虛空。

## 自然界說明的虛空

3 人一切的勞碌、就是他在日光之下的勞碌、有甚麼益處呢。

4 一代過去、一代又來、地卻永遠長存。

5 日頭出來、日頭落下、急歸所出之地。

6 風往南颳、又向北轉、不住的旋轉、而且返回轉行原道。

7 江河都往海裡流、海卻不滿、江河從何處流、仍歸還何處。

8 萬事令人厭煩〔或作萬物滿有困乏〕人不能說盡、眼看、看不飽、耳聽、聽不足。

9 已有的事、後必再有、已行的事、後必再行、日光之下並無新事。

10 豈有一件事人能指著說、這是新的、那知、在我們以前的世代、早已有。

11 已過的世代、無人記念、將來的世代、後來的人也不記念。

## 成就的虛空

12 我傳道者在耶路撒冷作過以色列的王。

## 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 我專心用智慧尋求查究天下所作的一切事、乃知 神叫世人所經練的、是極重的勞苦。
- 14 我見日光之下所作的一切事、都是虛空、都是捕風。
- 15 彎曲的不能變直、缺少的不能足數。

### 聰明的虛空

- 16 我心裡議論、說、我得了大智慧、勝過我以前在耶路撒冷的眾人、而且我心中多經歷智慧、和知識的事。
- 17 我又專心察明智慧、狂妄、和愚昧、乃知這也是捕風。
- 18 因為多有智慧、就多有愁煩、加增知識的、就加增憂傷。

## 第二章

### 縱情的虛空

- 1 我心裡說、來罷、我以喜樂試試你、你好享福、誰知、這也是虛空。
- 2 我指嬉笑說、這是狂妄、論喜樂說、有何功效呢。
- 3 我心裡察究、如何用酒使我肉體舒暢、我心卻仍以智慧引導我、又如何持住愚昧、等我查明世人、在天下一生當行何事為美。

### 財富的虛空

- 4 我為自己動大工程、建造房屋、栽種葡萄園、
- 5 修造園圃、在其中栽種各樣果木樹、
- 6 挖造水池、用以澆灌嫩小的樹木、

- 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 我買了僕婢、也有生在家中的僕婢·又有許多牛群羊群、勝過以前在耶路撒冷眾人所有的·
- 8 我又爲自己積蓄金銀、和君王的財寶、並各省的財寶·又得唱歌的男女、和世人所喜愛的物、並許多的妃嬪。
- 9 這樣、我就日見昌盛、勝過以前在耶路撒冷的眾人·我的智慧仍然存留。
- 10 凡我眼所求的、我沒有留下不給他的·我心所樂的、我沒有禁止不享受的·因我的心爲我一切所勞碌的快樂·這就是我從勞碌中所得的分。
- 11 後來我察看我的手所經營的一切事、和我勞碌所成的功·誰知都是虛空、都是捕風、在日光之下毫無益處。

### 智慧勝過愚昧

- 12 我轉念觀看智慧、狂妄、和愚昧·在王以後而來的人、還能作什麼呢·也不過行早先所行的就是了。
- 13 我便看出智慧勝過愚昧、如同光明勝過黑暗。
- 14 智慧人的眼目光明、〔光明原文作在他頭上〕、愚昧人在黑暗裡行·我卻看明有一件事、這兩等人都必遇見。
- 15 我就心裡說、愚昧人所遇見的、我也必遇見·我爲何更有智慧呢·我心裡說、這也是虛空。
- 16 智慧人、和愚昧人一樣、永遠無人記念·因爲日後都被忘記·可歎智慧人死亡、與愚昧人無異。
- 17 我所以很惡生命、因爲在日光之下所行的事我都以爲煩惱·都是虛空、都是捕風。

- 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.

## 勞碌的虛空

- 18 我恨惡一切的勞碌、就是我在日光之下的勞碌、因為我得來的必留給我以後的人。
- 19 那人是智慧、是愚昧、誰能知道、他竟要管理我勞碌所得的、就是我在日光之下用智慧所得的、這也是虛空。
- 20 故此、我轉想我在日光之下所勞碌的一切工作、心便絕望。
- 21 因為有人用智慧知識靈巧所勞碌得來的、卻要留給未曾勞碌的人為分、這也是虛空、也是大患。

## 日勞夜憂

- 22 人在日光之下勞碌累心、在他一切的勞碌上得著甚麼呢。
- 23 因為他日日憂慮他的勞苦成為愁煩、連夜間心也不安、這也是虛空。

## 享受勞碌的果效

- 24 人莫強如喫喝、且在勞碌中享福、我看這也是出於 神的手。
- 25 論到喫用、享福、誰能勝過我呢。
- 26 神喜悅誰、就給誰智慧、知識、和喜樂、惟有罪人、神使他勞苦、叫他將所收聚的、所堆積的、歸給 神所喜悅的人、這也是虛空、也是捕風。

## 第三章

## 萬事都有定時

- 1 凡事都有定期、天下萬務都有定時。
- 2 生有時、死有時、栽種有時、拔出所栽種的、也有時。
- 3 殺戮有時、醫治有時、拆毀有時、建造有時。

*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 哭有時、笑有時·哀慟有時、跳舞有時·  
 5 拋擲石頭有時、堆聚石頭有時·懷抱有時、不懷抱有時·  
 6 尋找有時、失落有時·保守有時、捨棄有時·  
 7 撕裂有時、縫補有時·靜默有時、言語有時·  
 8 喜愛有時、恨惡有時·爭戰有時、和好有時·

#### 人不能知 神的定時

- 9 這樣看來、作事的人在他的勞碌上有甚麼益處呢。  
 10 我見 神叫世人勞苦、使他們在其中受經練。  
 11 神造萬物、各按其時成為美好·又將永生安置在世人心裡·〔永生原文作永遠〕然而 神從始至終的作為、人不能參透。

#### 享受現有

- 12 我知道世人、莫強如終身喜樂行善。  
 13 並且人人喫喝、在他一切勞碌中享福·這也是 神的恩賜。

#### 神的主權

- 14 我知道 神一切所作的、都必永存、無所增添、無所減少· 神這樣行、是要人在他面前存敬畏的心。  
 15 現今的事早就有了·將來的事早已有了·並且 神使已過的事重新再來·〔或作並且 神再尋回已過的事〕

#### 不平與奸惡

- 16 我又見日光之下、在審判之處有奸惡·在公義之處也有奸惡。  
 17 我心裡說、 神必審判義人和惡人·因為在那裡、各樣事務、一切工作、都有定時。

- 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 我心裡說、這乃為世人的緣故、是 神要試驗他們、使他們覺得自己不過像獸一樣。
- 19 因為世人遭遇的、獸也遭遇、所遭遇的都是一樣、這個怎樣死、那個也怎樣死、氣息都是一樣、人不能強於獸、都是虛空。
- 20 都歸一處、都是出於塵土、也都歸於塵土。
- 21 誰知道人的靈是往上昇、獸的魂是下入地呢。
- 22 故此、我見人、莫強如在他經營的事上喜樂、因為這是他的分、他身後的事、誰能使他回來得見呢。

- 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

### 世上的欺壓

- 1 我又轉念、見日光之下所行的一切欺壓、看哪、受欺壓的流淚、且無人安慰、欺壓他們的有勢力、也無人安慰他們。
- 2 因此我讚歎那早已死的死人、勝過那還活著的活人。
- 3 並且我以為那未曾生的、就是未見過日光之下惡事的、比這兩等人更強。

### *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.

### 妬忌而行

- 4 我又見人為一切的勞碌、和各樣靈巧的工作、就被鄰舍嫉妒、這也是虛空、也是捕風。
- 5 愚昧人抱著手、喫自己的肉。
- 6 滿了一把、得享安靜、強如滿了兩把、勞碌捕風。

### *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.

### 貪婪而行

- 7 我又轉念、見日光之下有一件虛空的事。

### *Labor Motivated by Greed*

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

- 8 有人孤單無二、無子無兒、竟勞碌不息、眼目也不以錢財爲足。他說我勞碌碌碌、刻苦自己、不享福樂、到底是爲誰呢。這也是虛空、是極重的勞苦。

#### 同勞同享的益處

- 9 兩個人總比一個人好、因爲二人勞碌同得美好的果效。  
10 若是跌倒、這人可以扶起他的同伴。若是孤身跌倒、沒有別人扶起他來、這人就有的禍了。  
11 再者、二人同睡、就都暖和、一人獨睡、怎能暖和呢。  
12 有人攻勝孤身一人、若有二人便能敵擋他。三股合成的繩子、不容易折斷。

#### 逐譽而行

- 13 貧窮而有智慧的少年人、勝過年老不肯納諫的愚昧王。  
14 這人是從監牢中出來作王。在他國中、生來原是貧窮的。  
15 我見日光之下一切行動的活人、都隨從那第二位、就是起來代替老王的少年人。  
16 他所治理的眾人、就是他的百姓、多得無數。在他後來的人、尚且不喜悅他。這真是虛空、也是捕風。

## 第五章

### 隨便的許願

- 1 你到 神的殿、要謹慎腳步。因爲近前聽、勝過愚昧人獻祭、〔或作勝過獻愚昧人的祭〕、他們本不知道所作的是惡。  
2 你在 神面前不可冒失開口、也不可心急發言。因爲 神在天上、你在地下、所以你的言語要寡少。  
3 事務多、就令人作夢、言語多、就顯出愚昧。

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!

### *Labor is Beneficial When Its Rewards Are Shared*

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.

### *Labor Motivated by Prestige-Seeking*

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.

### *Rash Vows*

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 神許願、償還不可遲延·因他不喜悅愚昧人·所以你許的願應當償還。
- 5 你許願不還、不如不許。
- 6 不可任你的口使肉體犯罪·也不可在祭司〔原文作使者〕面前說是錯許了·為何使神因你的聲音發怒、敗壞你手所作的呢。
- 7 多夢和多言、其中多有虛幻·你只要敬畏神。

#### 貪污枉法

- 8 你若在一省之中見窮人受欺壓、並奪去公義公平的事、不要因此詫異·因有一位高過居高位的鑒察·在他們以上還有更高的。
- 9 況且地的益處歸眾人·就是君王也受田地的供應。

#### 貪財的虛空

- 10 貪愛銀子的、不因得銀子知足·貪愛豐富的、也不因得利益知足·這也是虛空。
- 11 貨物增添、喫的人也增添·物主得甚麼益處呢、不過眼看而已。
- 12 勞碌的人、不拘喫多喫少、睡得香甜·富足人的豐滿、卻不容他睡覺。

#### 享財非享人生

- 13 我見日光之下、有一宗大禍患·就是財主積存貲財、反害自己·
- 14 因遭遇禍患·這些貲財就消滅·那人若生了兒子、手裡也一無所有。
- 15 他怎樣從母胎赤身而來、也必照樣赤身而去·他所勞碌得來的、手中分毫不能帶去。
- 16 他來的情形怎樣、他去的情形也怎樣·這也是一宗大禍患·他為風勞碌有甚麼益處呢。
- 17 並且他終身在黑暗中喫喝、多有煩惱、又有病患嘔氣。

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.

## 享受勞碌的果效

- 18 我所見為善為美的、就是人在 神賜他一生的日子喫喝、享受日光之下勞碌得來的好處·因為這是他的分。
- 19 神賜人貲財豐富、使他能以喫用、能取自己的分、在他勞碌中喜樂·這乃是 神的恩賜。
- 20 他不多思念自己一生的年日·因為 神應他的心使他喜樂。

## 第六章

## 人生非人人皆享

- 1 我見日光之下有一宗禍患、重壓在人身上·
- 2 就是人蒙 神賜他貲財、豐富、尊榮、以致他心裡所願的一樣都不缺、只是 神使他不能喫用、反有外人來喫用·這是虛空、也是禍患。
- 3 人若生一百個兒子、活許多歲數、以致他的年日甚多、心裡卻不得滿享福樂、又不得埋葬·據我說、那不到期而落的胎比他倒好·
- 4 因為虛虛而來、暗暗而去、名字被黑暗遮蔽·
- 5 並且沒有見過天日、也毫無知覺·這胎、比那人倒享安息。
- 6 那人雖然活千年、再活千年、卻不享福、眾人豈不都歸一個地方去麼。
- 7 人的勞碌都為口腹、心裡卻不知足。
- 8 這樣看來、智慧人比愚昧人有甚麼長處呢·窮人在眾人面前知道如何行、有甚麼長處呢。

*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、比心裡妄想的倒好·這也是虛空、也是捕風。

#### 人生之虛幻

- 10 先前所有的、早已起了名·並知道何為人·他也不能與那比自己力大的相爭。
- 11 加增虛浮的事既多、這與人有甚麼益處呢。
- 12 人一生虛度的日子、就如影兒經過·誰知道甚麼與他有益呢·誰能告訴他身後在日光之下有甚麼事呢。

## 第七章

#### 人生苦短

- 1 名譽強如美好的膏油·人死的日子、勝過人生的日子。
- 2 往遭喪的家去、強如往宴樂的家去、因為死是眾人的結局·活人也必將這事放在心上。
- 3 憂愁強如喜笑、因為面帶愁容終必使心喜樂。
- 4 智慧人的心、在遭喪之家·愚昧人的心、在快樂之家。

#### 智愚之別

- 5 聽智慧人的責備、強如聽愚昧人的歌唱。
- 6 愚昧人的笑聲、好像鍋下燒荊棘的爆聲·這也是虛空。

#### 困境傾覆智慧

- 7 勒索使智慧人變為愚妄·賄賂能敗壞人的慧心。
- 8 事情的終局、強如事情的起頭·存心忍耐的、勝過居心驕傲的。

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.

#### *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 你不要心裡急躁惱怒、因為惱怒存在愚昧人的懷中。  
 10 不要說、先前的日子強過如今的日子、是甚麼緣故呢、你這樣問、不是出於智慧。

### 智慧延壽

- 11 智慧和產業並好、而且見天日的人、得智慧更為有益。  
 12 因為智慧護庇人、好像銀錢護庇人一樣、惟獨智慧能保全智慧人的生命、這就是知識的益處。

### 智慧洞明 神的掌管

- 13 你要察看 神的作為、因 神使為曲的、誰能變為直呢。  
 14 遇亨通的日子、你當喜樂、遭患難的日子、你當思想、因為 神使這兩樣並列、為的是叫人查不出身後有甚麼事。

### 報應之例外

- 15 有義人行義、反致滅亡、有惡人行惡、倒享長壽、這都是我在虛度之日中所見過的。  
 16 不要行義過分、也不要過於自逞智慧、何必自取敗亡呢。  
 17 不要行惡過分、也不要為人愚昧、何必不到期而死呢。  
 18 你持守這個為美、那個也不要鬆手、因為敬畏 神的人、必從這兩樣出來。

### 因無義人故需智慧

- 19 智慧使有智慧的人、比城中十個官長更有能力。  
 20 時常行善而不犯罪的義人、世上實在沒有。  
 21 人所說的一切話、你不要放在心上、恐怕聽見你的僕人咒詛你。  
 22 因為你心裡知道、自己也曾屢次咒詛別人。

- 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.

## 人智之窮

- 23 我曾用智慧試驗這一切事，我說、要得智慧、智慧卻離我遠。
- 24 萬事之理、離我甚遠、而且最深、誰能測透呢。

## 世上無真義和真智

- 25 我轉念、一心要知道、要考察、要尋求智慧、和萬事的理由、又要知道邪惡為愚昧、愚昧為狂妄。
- 26 我得知有等婦人、比死還苦、他的心是網羅、手是鎖鍊、凡蒙 神喜悅的人、必能躲避他、有罪的人、卻被他纏住了。
- 27 傳道者說、看哪、一千男子中、我找到一個正直人、但眾女子中、沒有找到一個、我將這事一一比較、要尋求其理、我心仍要尋找、卻未曾找到。
- 28
- 29 我所找到的、只有一件、就是 神造人原是正直、但他們尋出許多巧計。

## 第八章

## 掌權者同證人智之限

- 1 誰如智慧人呢、誰知道事情的解釋呢、人的智慧使他的臉發光、並使他臉上的暴氣改變。
- 2 我勸你遵守王的命令、既指 神起誓、理當如此。
- 3 不要急躁離開王的面前、不要固執行惡、因為他凡事都隨自己的心意而行。
- 4 王的話本有權力、誰敢問他說、你作甚麼呢。
- 5 凡遵守命令的、必不經歷禍患、智慧人的心、能辨明時候和定理。〔原文作審判下節同〕

*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 各樣事務成就、都有時候和定理·因為人的苦難、重壓在他身上。
- 7 他不知道將來的事、因為將來如何、誰能告訴他呢。
- 8 無人有權力掌管生命、將生命留住·也無人有權力掌管死期·這場爭戰、無人能免·邪惡也不能救那好行邪惡的人。
- 9 這一切我都見過·也專心查考日光之下所作的一切事·有時這人管轄那人、令人受害。

### 報應之反證

- 10 我見惡人埋葬、歸入墳墓·又見行正直事的、離開聖地、在城中被人忘記·這也是虛空。
- 11 因為斷定罪名、不立刻施刑、所以世人滿心作惡。
- 12 罪人雖然作惡百次、倒享長久的年日·然而我準知道、敬畏 神的、就是在他面前敬畏的人、終久必得福樂。
- 13 惡人卻不得福樂、也不得長久的年日·這年日好像影兒、因他不敬畏 神。
- 14 世上有一件虛空的事、就是義人所遭遇的、反照惡人所行的·又有惡人所遭遇的、反照義人所行的·我說、這也是虛空。

### 人生雖不公仍要享受

- 15 我就稱讚快樂、原來人在日光之下、莫強如喫喝快樂·因為他在日光之下、神賜他一生的年日、要從勞碌中、時常享受所得的。

### 人智之有限

- 16 我專心求智慧、要看世上所作的事·（有晝夜不睡覺、不合眼的）
- 17 我就看明 神一切的作為·知道人查不出日光之下所作的事·任憑他費多少力尋查、都查不出來·就是智慧人雖想知道、也是查不出來。

- 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 我將這一切事放在心上、詳細考究、就知道義人和智慧人、並他們的作為、都在神手中、或是愛、或是恨、都在他們的前面、人不能知道。
- 2 凡臨到眾人的事、都是一樣、義人和惡人、都遭遇一樣的事、好人、潔淨人和不潔淨人、獻祭的與不獻祭的、也是一樣、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、有一件禍患、就是眾人所遭遇的、都是一樣、並且世人的心、充滿了惡、活著的時候心裡狂妄、後來就歸死人那裡去了。

## 活窮人勝過死財主

- 4 與一切活人相連的、那人還有指望、因為活著的狗、比死了的獅子更強。
- 5 活著的人、知道必死、死了的人、毫無所知、也不再得賞賜、他們的名無人記念。
- 6 他們的愛、他們的恨、他們的嫉妒、早都消滅了、在日光之下所行的一切事上、他們永不再有分了。

## 人生苦短更應樂渡

- 7 你只管去歡歡喜喜喫你的飯、心中快樂喝你的酒、因為 神已經悅納你的作為。
- 8 你的衣服當時常潔白、你頭上也不要缺少膏油。
- 9 在你一生虛空的年日、就是 神賜你在日光之下虛空的年日、當同你所愛的妻、快活度日、因為那是你生前、在日光之下勞碌的事上所得的分。
- 10 凡你手所當作的事、要盡力去作、因為在你所必去的陰間、沒有工作、沒有謀算、沒有知識、也沒有智慧。

*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.

## 智慧不能保障忽臨之事

- 11 我又轉念、見日光之下、快跑的未必能贏、力戰的未必得勝、智慧的未必得糧食、明哲的未必得貨財、靈巧的未必得喜悅、所臨到眾人的、是在乎當時的機會。
- 12 原來人也不知道自己的定期、魚被惡網圈住、鳥被網羅捉住、禍患忽然臨到的時候、世人陷在其中、也是如此。

## 常人不受智慧

- 13 我見日光之下有一樣智慧、據我看乃是廣大、
- 14 就是有一小城、其中的人數稀少、有大君王來攻擊、修築營壘、將城圍困、
- 15 城中有一個貧窮的智慧人、他用智慧救了那城、卻沒有人記念那窮人、
- 16 我就說、智慧勝過勇力、然而那貧窮人的智慧、被人藐視、他的話也無人聽從。

## 智慧有別於愚妄及罪

- 17 寧可在安靜之中聽智慧人的言語、不聽掌管愚昧人的喊聲。
- 18 智慧勝過打仗的兵器、但一個罪人、能敗壞許多善事。

## 第十章

- 1 死蒼蠅、使作香的膏油發出臭氣、這樣、一點愚昧、也能敗壞智慧和尊榮。

## 掌權者的任性能敗壞智慧

- 2 智慧人的心居右、愚昧人的心居左。
- 3 並且愚昧人行路、顯出無知、對眾人說、他是愚昧人。
- 4 掌權者的心、若向你發怒、不要離開你的本位、因為柔和能免大過。

*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 我見日光之下、有一件禍患、似乎出於掌權的錯誤、  
6 就是愚昧人立在高位、富足人坐在低位。  
7 我見過僕人騎馬、王子像僕人在地上步行。

#### 智慧轉危為安

- 8 挖陷坑的、自己必掉在其中、拆牆垣的、必為蛇所咬。  
9 鑿開〔或作挪移〕石頭的、必受損傷、劈開木頭的、必遭危險。  
10 鐵器鈍了、若不將刃磨快、就必多費氣力、但得智慧指教、便有益處。  
11 未行法術以先、蛇若咬人、後行法術也是無益。

#### 智愚言行

- 12 智慧人的口、說出恩言、愚昧人的嘴、吞滅自己。  
13 他口中的言語、起頭是愚昧、他話的末尾、是奸惡的狂妄。  
14 愚昧人多有言語、人卻不知將來有甚麼事、他身後的事、誰能告訴他呢。  
15 凡愚昧人、他的勞碌使自己困乏、因為連進城的路他也不知道。

#### 愚君之誤

- 16 邦國阿、你的王若是孩童、你的群臣早晨宴樂、你就有禍了。  
17 邦國阿、你的王若是貴冑之子、你的群臣按時喫喝、為要補力、不為酒醉、你就有福了。  
18 因人懶惰、房頂塌下、因人手懶、房屋滴漏。  
19 設擺筵席、是為喜笑、酒能使人快活、錢能叫萬事應心。  
20 你不可咒詛君王、也不可心懷此念、在你臥房也不可咒詛富戶、因為空中的鳥、必傳揚這聲音、有翅膀的、也必述說這事。

**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

為未知的將來奮力於目前

- 1 當將你的糧食撒在水面、因為日久必能得著。
- 2 你要分給七人、或分給八人、因為你不知道將來有甚麼災禍臨到地上。
- 3 雲若滿了雨、就必傾倒在地上。樹若向南倒、或向北倒、樹倒在何處、就存在何處。
- 4 看風的必不撒種。望雲的必不收割。
- 5 風從何道來、骨頭在懷孕婦人的胎中如何長成、你尚且不得知道。這樣、行萬事之神的作為、你更不得知道。
- 6 早晨要撒你的種、晚上也不要歇你的手、因為你不知道那一樣發旺、或是早撒的、或是晚撒的、或是兩樣都好。

人生既短應常快樂

- 7 光是佳美的、眼見日光也是可悅的。
- 8 人活多年、就當快樂多年。然而也當想到黑暗的日子、因為這日子必多、所要來的都是虛空。

敬畏 神享受人生

- 9 少年人哪、你在幼年時當快樂。在幼年的日子、使你的心歡暢、行你心所願行的、看你眼所愛看的、卻要知道、為這一切的事、神必審問你。
- 10 所以你當從心中除掉愁煩。從肉體克去邪惡。因為一生的開端、和幼年之時、都是虛空的。

*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 神因衰敗不遠

- 1 你趁著年幼、衰敗的日子尚未來到、就是你所說、我毫無喜樂的那些年日未曾臨近之先、當記念造你的主。
- 2 不要等到日頭、光明、月亮、星宿、變為黑暗、雨後雲彩反回、
- 3 看守房屋的發顫、有力的屈身、推磨的稀少就止息、從窗戶往外看的都昏暗、
- 4 街門關閉、推磨的響聲微小、雀鳥一叫、人就起來、歌唱的女子、也都衰微、
- 5 人怕高處、路上有驚慌、杏樹開花、蚱蜢成為重擔、人所願的也都廢掉、因為人歸他永遠的家、弔喪的在街上往來、
- 6 銀鍊折斷、金罐破裂、瓶子在泉旁損壞、水輪在井口破爛、
- 7 塵土仍歸於地、靈仍歸於賜靈的 神。

結語：傳道者重申主題

- 8 傳道者說、虛空的虛空、凡事都是虛空。

後跋：傳道者訓言的智慧

- 9 再者、傳道者因有智慧、仍將知識教訓眾人、又默想、又考查、又陳說許多箴言。
- 10 傳道者專心尋求可喜悅的言語、是憑正直寫的誠實話。
- 11 智慧人的言語、好像刺棍、會中之師的言語、又像釘穩的釘子、都是一個牧者所賜的。

勸勉：敬畏 神並守誡命

- 12 我兒、還有一層、你當受勸戒、著書多、沒有窮盡、讀書多、身體疲倦。

*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 這些事都已聽見了·總意就是敬畏 神、  
謹守他的誠命、這是人所當盡的本分。  
〔或作這是眾人的本分〕
- 14 因為人所作的事、連一切隱藏的事、無論  
是善是惡、 神都必審問。

**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.