

Ecclesiastes 2:12-17

Literal English Translation
Trilinear Text

Ecclesiastes 2:1-17
Literal English Translation

Ecclesiastes 1:3-6:12
The Personal Experiences of Solomon (continued)

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11
The Observations of Pleasure

Ecclesiastes 2:1
The Introduction

**1) I have said in my heart, Come now,
I will test you in pleasure.
And I will see *you* in good.
And behold, also this *is* vanity.**

Ecclesiastes 2:2-3
The Experiment with Laughter and Wine

**2) Concerning laughter I have said,
"*It is madness,*"
and concerning pleasure,
"*What is this accomplishing?*"**

**3) I have investigated in my heart
to draw out my flesh in wine,
and leading my heart in wisdom;
and to take hold in foolishness,
until which *time* I will see where
this good for the sons of man *is*,
which they will do under the heavens
through the number of *the* days
of their lives.**

Ecclesiastes 2:4-8
The Experiment with Materialism

**4) I have made great my works;
I have built for myself houses;
I have planted for myself vineyards;**

**5) I have made for myself gardens and parks;
and I have planted in them trees
of every kind of fruit;**

Ecclesiastes 2:1-17

Literal English Translation

**6) I have made for myself pools of waters;
to irrigate from them *the* forest sprouting
trees;**

**7) I have acquired male slaves and female slaves,
and *the* sons of the household have become for me.
Also I have acquired livestock, and countless sheep
have become for me, more than all that have been
before me in Jerusalem.**

**8) I have gathered for myself also silver and gold,
and *the* treasure of kings and the provinces.
I have made for myself male singers
and female singers; and the pleasures of the sons
of man, *a* concubine, and concubines.**

Ecclesiastes 2:9-11
The Conclusion

**9) And I have become great and I have increased
more than all that have been before me in Jerusalem;
yet my wisdom has remained with me.**

**10) And everything which my eyes have asked,
I have not withheld from them.
I have not withheld my heart from all pleasure;
because my heart *was* rejoicing from all of my labor;
and this has been my portion from all of my labor.**

**11) And I have turned, I in all of my works
that my hands have done, and in the labor
that I have labored to do. And, behold,
everything *is* vanity and chasing of wind,
and *there is* no profit under the sun.**

Ecclesiastes 2:12-17

The Observations of Wisdom Contrasted with Foolishness

Ecclesiastes 2:12
The Introduction

**12) And I had turned to see wisdom,
and madness, and foolishness.
Because what *will* the man *do* who**

Ecclesiastes 2:1-17

Literal English Translation

**will come after the king,
which has already been done?**

Ecclesiastes 2:13-14
The Comparison of Light to Darkness

**13) And I have seen, I *myself*,
that there *is a* profit to wisdom
compared to foolishness,
like *the* profit of the light compared to
the darkness.**

**14) The wise man, his eyes *are* in his head,
but the fool *is* walking in the darkness;
and I also have known, I *myself*,
that one event will happen to all of them.**

Ecclesiastes 2:15-16
The Comparison at Death

**15) And I have said in my heart, I *myself*,
Like the event of the fool, also I *myself*,
it will happen to me;
and for why have I then, I *myself*,
become more wise?
And I have said in my heart that also this *is* vanity.**

**16) Because there *is* no remembrance of the wise
with the fool forever, in that already the coming days
everyone will have been forgotten.
And O how will the wise die with the fool!**

Ecclesiastes 2:17
The Conclusion

**17) And I have hated life; because upon me
the work that has been done under the sun
is evil; because everything *is* vanity and chasing *of* wind.**

Ecclesiastes 2:12-17

Trilinear Text

12) And I had turned to see wisdom,

יב. הַחֵמָה לְרֹאיוֹת אֲנִי וּפְנִיתִי
Καὶ ἐπέβλεψα ἐγὼ τοῦ ἰδεῖν σοφίαν

and madness, and foolishness. Because what

 הַמַּה פִּי מָה
 וְהוֹלְלוֹת וְסִכְלוֹת כִּי מָה
καὶ περιφορὰν καὶ ἀφροσύνην· ὅτι τίς

will the man do who will come after the king,

 הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲחֵרֵי שִׁבּוֹא הָאָדָם
ὁ ἄνθρωπος, ὃς ἐπελεύσεται ὀπίσω τῆς βουλήs

which has already been done?

 עָשָׂהוּ: כְּבָר-אֲשֶׁר אֵת
 אֲתָן; עָשָׂהוּ: כְּבָר-אֲשֶׁר אֵת
τὰ ὅσα ἐποίησεν αὐτήν;

13) And I have seen, I myself that there is a profit

יג. יְתָרוֹן שֵׁי אֲנִי וְרֵאִיתִי
 יְתָרוֹן שֵׁי אֲנִי וְרֵאִיתִי
καὶ εἶδον ἐγὼ ὅτι ἔστιν περισσεῖα

to wisdom compared to foolishness, like the profit of the light

 הָאוֹר כִּיְתָרוֹן הַסִּכְלוֹת-מִן- הַחֵמָה
 הָאוֹר כִּיְתָרוֹן הַסִּכְלוֹת-מִן- הַחֵמָה
τῆ σοφία ὑπὲρ τὴν ἀφροσύνην ὡs περισσεῖα τοῦ φωτὸs

compared to the darkness.

 הַשְּׂחָךְ-מִן- עֵינָיו הַחֵמָה
 הַשְּׂחָךְ-מִן- עֵינָיו הַחֵמָה
ὑπὲρ τὸ σκότος·

14) The wise man, his eyes are in his head,

יד. בְּרֵאשׁוֹ עֵינָיו הַחֵכְמָה
 בְּרֵאשׁוֹ עֵינָיו הַחֵכְמָה
τοῦ σοφοῦ οἱ ὀφθαλμοὶ αὐτοῦ ἐν κεφαλῇ αὐτοῦ,

and the fool is walking in the darkness; and I also have known,

 אֲנִי-גַם וַיְדַעְתִּי הוֹלָךְ בְּחֹשֶׁךְ וְהַכְסִיל
 אֲנִי-גַם וַיְדַעְתִּי הוֹלָךְ בְּחֹשֶׁךְ וְהַכְסִיל
καὶ ὁ ἄφρων ἐν σκότει πορεύεται. καὶ ἔγνω καί γε ἐγὼ

I myself that one event will happen to all of them.

 כְּלָם-אֵת יְקַרְהָ אֶתְד שֵׁמֶקְרָה
 כְּלָם-אֵת יְקַרְהָ אֶתְד שֵׁמֶקְרָה
ὅτι συνάντημα ἐν συναντήσεται τοῖs πάσιν αὐτοῖs.

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15) And I have said in my heart, I myself Like the event

טו. אָנִי וְאָמַרְתִּי בְּלִבִּי כְּמִקְרָה
καὶ εἶπα ἐγὼ ἐν καρδίᾳ μου ὧς συνάντημα

of the fool, also I myself it will happen to me;

הַכֹּסֵּיל אָנִי-גַם יִקְרָנִי
τοῦ ἄφρονος καὶ γε ἐμοὶ συναντήσεται μοι,

and for why have I then, I myself become more wise?

וְלָמָּה הִכְמַמְתִּי אָנִי אֶזְרָא יִתַּר
καὶ ἵνα τί ἐσοφισάμην; ἐγὼ τότε περισσὸν

And I have said in my heart that this also is vanity.

וְדַבַּרְתִּי בְּלִבִּי הֵיאֵשֶׁת-זֶה הַבָּבֶל:
ἐλάλησα ἐν καρδίᾳ μου, διότι ἄφρων ἐκ περισεύματος λαλεῖ,
ὅτι καὶ γε τοῦτο ματαιότης.

16) Because there is no remembrance of the wise

טז. כִּי אֵין זְכָרוֹן לְחֻכָּם
ὅτι οὐκ ἔστιν μνήμη τοῦ σοφοῦ

with the fool forever, in that already

לְעוֹלָם הַכֹּסֵּיל-לְעַם בְּשִׁכְחָר
μετὰ τοῦ ἄφρονος εἰς αἰῶνα, καθότι ἤδη

the coming days everyone has been forgotten.

יָמֵי הַבָּאִים הַכֹּל נִשְׁכַּח
αἱ ἡμέραι αἱ ἐρχόμεναι τὰ πάντα ἐπελήσθη·

And O how will the wise die with the fool!

וְאֵיךְ יָמוּת הַחֻכָּם הַכֹּסֵּיל-לְעַם:
καὶ πῶς ἀποθανεῖται ὁ σοφὸς μετὰ τοῦ ἄφρονος;

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17) And I have hated the life; because upon me the work

יז. המַעֲשֵׂה עָלַי רָע כִּי הַחַיִּים-אֶת וְשָׂנְאֵתִי
καὶ ἐμίσησα σὺν τῇ ζωῇ, ὅτι πονηρὸν ἐπ' ἐμὲ τὸ ποίημα

that has been done under the sun *is* evil;

הַשְׂמֵשׁ הַשְּׁמַשׁ תַּחַת וְשָׂנְעָה
τὸ πεποιημένον ὑπο τὸν ἥλιον,

because everything *is* vanity and chasing *of* wind.

רוּחַ וְרָעוּת הַבָּל הַכֹּל-כִּי
ὅτι τὰ πάντα ματαιότης καὶ προαίρεσις πνεύματος.