

Ecclesiastes 2:18-26

Literal English Translation
Trilinear Text

Ecclesiastes 2:1-26
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 2:1-26

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 2:1-26

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 2:1-26
Literal English Translation

Ecclesiastes 2:18-26
The Observations of Physical Labor

Ecclesiastes 2:18-23
The Problem of Success

Ecclesiastes 2:18-19
The Contemplation of Achievement

**18) And I have hated, I *myself*,
all of my labor that I myself labored
under the sun,
that I will leave it to the man
who will be after me.**

**19) And who *is* knowing,
will he be the wise man or *a* fool?
And he will rule among all of my labor
which I have labored,
and which I have been wise under the sun.
Also this *is* vanity.**

Ecclesiastes 2:20-21
The Conflict over Achievement

**20) And I had turned, I *myself*,
to make my heart despair
over all of the labor which I have labored
under the sun.**

**21) Because there is *a* man who his labor
is in wisdom, and in knowledge, and in success,
and to *a* man who has not labored in it,
he will give it *as* his share;
also this *is* vanity and *a* great evil.**

Ecclesiastes 2:22-23
The Conclusion concerning Achievement

**22) Because what will be happening for the man
in all of his labor, and in chasing of his heart,
which he himself labored under the sun?**

Ecclesiastes 2:1-26

Literal English Translation

**23) Because all of his days *are* pains,
and his job *is* anguish;
also in the night his heart has not rested.
Also this *is* vanity.**

Ecclesiastes 2:24-26

The Provision in Labor

Ecclesiastes 2:24-25

The Consequences of Labor

**24) *Is there* nothing better in the man
than that he will eat and drink
and will have caused his soul to see good
in his labor? Also this I have seen, I *myself*,
that it *was* from the hand of God.**

**25) Because who will eat, and who will enjoy,
apart from Him?**

Ecclesiastes 2:26

The Contrast between Good and Evil

**26) Because to *a* man who *is* good before Him,
God will have given wisdom, and knowledge
and joy. And to the sinner He has given the job
to gather and to collect, to give to *the one*
who is good before God. Also this *is* vanity
and chasing of wind.**

Ecclesiastes 2:18-26

Trilinear Text

18) And I have hated, I *myself*, all of my labor

כִּי. וְשָׂנְאתִי עֲמָלִי-כָּל-תְּשׁוּבָתִי
καὶ ἐμίσησα ἐγὼ σὺν πάντα μόχθον μου,

that I myself labored under the sun,

וְשָׂנְאתִי עֲמָלִי תַּחַת שֶׁמֶשׁ
ὄν ἐγὼ μοχθῶ ὑπὸ τὸν ἥλιον,

that I will leave it to the man

וְשָׂאנִיחֶנּוּ לְאָדָם
ὅτι ἀφίω αὐτὸν τῷ ἀνθρώπῳ

who will be after me.

וְאֵיךְ יִשְׁיֶה
τῷ γινομένῳ μετ' ἐμέ·

19) And who *is* knowing,

כִּי. וְיִמִּי יוֹדֵעַ
καὶ τίς οἶδεν

will he be the wise man or a fool?

הֲכָכֵם יִהְיֶה אִם לְכֹל
εἰ σοφὸς ἔσται ἢ ἄφρων;

And he will rule among all of my labor

וְיִשְׁלַט עֲמָלִי-כָּכָל
καὶ ἐξουσιάζεται ἐν παντὶ μόχθῳ μου,

which I have labored,

וְעֲמָלִיתִי
ὃ ἐμόχθησα

and which I have been wise under the sun.

וְכִי יִשְׁכַּחְתִּי תַּחַת שֶׁמֶשׁ
καὶ ὃ ἐσοφισάμην ὑπὸ τὸν ἥλιον.

Also this *is* vanity.

וְזָגָה לְבָבִי
καὶ γε τοῦτο ματαιότης.

Ecclesiastes 2:18-26

Trilinear Text

20) And I had turned, I *myself*, to make my heart despair

כ. וסבוֹתַי אֲנִי לְאֵלֵי לְבַי-תָּא
καὶ ἐπέστρεψα ἐγὼ τοῦ ἀποτάξασθαι τῇ καρδίᾳ μου

over all of the labor which I have labored

כָּל עַל-מְלַכְתִּי שָׁמַרְתִּי
ἐπὶ παντὶ τῷ μόχθῳ, ὧ̄ ἐμόχθησα

under the sun.

תַּחַת שֶׁמֶשׁ:
ὑπὸ τὸν ἥλιον,

21) Because there is *a* man who his labor

כא. יֵשׁ-כִּי אָדָם שָׁמַרְתִּי
ὅτι ἔστιν ἄνθρωπος, οὗ μόχθος αὐτοῦ

is in wisdom, and in knowledge,

בְּחָכְמָה וּבְדַעַת
ἐν σοφίᾳ καὶ ἐν γνώσει

and in success, and to *a* man

וּבְכִשְׁרוֹן וּלְאָדָם
καὶ ἐν ἀνδρείᾳ, καὶ ἄνθρωπος,

who has not labored in it, he will give it *as* his share;

אֶשְׁלֵא בּו-עֵמֶל יִתְּנֵנּוּ תְּלִקֵּן
ὅς οὐκ ἐμόχθησεν ἐν αὐτῷ, δώσει αὐτῷ μερίδα αὐτοῦ.

also this *is* vanity and *a* great evil.

הֵגֶם-הִיא הַבְּלָה רַבָּה וְרָעָה:
καὶ γε τοῦτο ματαιότης καὶ πονηρία μεγάλη

Ecclesiastes 2:18-26

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22) Because what will be happening for the man

כב. פִּי הַיְהוּמָה לְאָדָם
 ὅτι τί γίνεται τῷ ἀνθρώπῳ

in all of his labor, and in chasing of his heart,

 עָמְלו־בְּכָל וּבְרַעְיוֹן לְבוֹ
ἐν παντὶ μόχθῳ αὐτοῦ καὶ ἐν προαιρέσει καρδίας αὐτοῦ,

which he himself labored under the sun?

 נִשְׁהוּא עָמַל תַּשְׁמֵן שֶׁתַּחַת:
ὧ αὐτὸς μοχθεῖ ὑπὸ τὸν ἥλιον;

23) Because all of his days *are* pains,

כג. פִּי יַמְיוֹ-כָּל מְכַאֲבִים
 ὅτι πᾶσαι αἱ ἡμέραι αὐτοῦ ἀλγημάτων

and his job is anguish;

 נִכְעַס עֲנִיבוֹ
καὶ θυμοῦ περισπασμὸς αὐτοῦ,

also in the night his heart has not rested

 בְּלַיְלָה-גַּם שָׁכַב-לֹא לְבוֹ
καὶ γε ἐν νυκτὶ οὐ κοιμᾶται ἡ καρδία αὐτοῦ.

Also this is vanity.

 הוּא הֶבְרֵל נְהִי-גַם:
καὶ γε τοῦτο ματαιότης ἐστίν.

Ecclesiastes 2:18-26

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24) *Is there nothing better in the man*

כד. טוב-אין באדם
Οὐκ ἔστιν ἀγαθὸν ἐν ἀνθρώπῳ·

than that he will eat and drink

 שיאכל וישתה
ὁ φάγεται καὶ ὁ πίνεται

and will have caused his soul

 נפשו-את והרעה
καὶ ὁ δείξει τῇ ψυχῆ αὐτοῦ,

to see good in his labor?

 טוב בעמלו
ἀγαθὸν ἐν μόχθῳ αὐτοῦ.

Also this I have seen, I myself,

 זה-גם ראיתי אני
καὶ γε τοῦτο εἶδον ἐγὼ

that it is from the hand of God.

 כי מנד היא-האלהים:
ὅτι ἀπὸ χειρὸς τοῦ θεοῦ ἔστιν·

25) *Because who will eat, and who will enjoy,*

כה. כי מי יאכל ומי יחוש
ὅτι τίς φάγεται καὶ τίς φείσεται

apart from Him?

 חוץ ממנו:
πᾶρεξ αὐτοῦ;

Ecclesiastes 2:18-26

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26) Because to *a* man who *is* good before Him,

כו. כִּי לְאִדָּמָה יֵשׁוּב לְפָנָיו
ὅτι τῷ ἀνθρώπῳ τῷ ἀγαθῷ πρὸ προσώπου αὐτοῦ

God will have given wisdom, and knowledge and joy.

נָתַן חֵכְמָה וְדַעַת וְשִׂמְחָה
ἔδωκεν σοφίαν καὶ γνῶσιν καὶ εὐφροσύνην·

And to the sinner He has given *the* job

וְלַחַיָּטָא נָתַן עֲבָדָה
καὶ τῷ ἀμαρτάνοντι ἔδωκεν περισπασμὸν

to gather and to collect,

לְאַסֹּף וְלִכְנוֹס
τοῦ προσθεῖναι καὶ τοῦ συναγαγεῖν

to give to *the one who is* good before God.

לְהַתְּנוּב לְטוֹב לְפָנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים
τοῦ δοῦναι τῷ ἀγαθῷ πρὸ προσώπου τοῦ θεοῦ·

Also *this is* vanity and chasing of wind.

וְזֶה-גַּם לְבַקֵּל וְרָעוּת וְרוּחַ
ὅτι καὶ γε τοῦτο ματαιότης καὶ προαίρεσις πνεύματος.