

# **Ecclesiastes 10:1-11**

Literal English Translation  
Trilinear Text

**Ecclesiastes 10:1-11**  
Literal English Translation

**Ecclesiastes 7:1-12:8**  
**The Proverbs of Solomon**

**Ecclesiastes 10**  
**The Application of Wisdom to Foolishness**

Ecclesiastes 10:1-3  
The Contamination of Foolishness in Life

**(1) Flies of death cause the oil of *a* perfumer to send out *a* stinking odor; *so a* little foolishness is weightier than wisdom, than honor.**

**(2) *A* wise heart *goes* to his right, but *A* foolish heart *goes* to his left.**

**(3) And also, in the way when *a* fool *is* walking, his heart *is* lacking, and he has said to everyone *that he is a* fool.**

Ecclesiastes 10:4-7  
The Corruption of Foolishness in Life

**(4) If *the* spirit of the ruler rises up against you, do not leave your place; because composure pacifies great sins.**

**(5) There is evil I have seen under the sun, like unintentional *sin* going out from the presence of the ruler:**

**(6) folly has been placed in many high *positions*, and many rich men are sitting in the low place.**

**(7) I have seen slaves upon horses, and rulers walking as slaves upon the earth.**

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Ecclesiastes 10:8-11  
The Calamity of Foolishness in Life

**(8) *The one digging a pit will fall in it;*  
and *the one breaking through a wall,*  
a snake will bite him.**

**(9) *The one removing stones will be hurt by them;*  
*the one splitting wood will be endangered by them.***

**(10) If the iron has become dull,  
and he has not sharpened the edges,  
then *he will apply* more strength;  
But wisdom causes *an advantage for* success.**

**(11) If the snake will bite before being charmed,  
then there *is* no advantage to *a* master of the tongue.**

## Ecclesiastes 10:1-11

### Trilinear Text

#### (1) Flies of death cause the oil of *a* perfumer

א. מִנֵּי זְבוּבֵי מוֹת יִבְאֵישׁ יִבְיַע  
Mui'ai qanatousai sapriousin skeuasian

**to send out *a* stinking odor; so *a* little foolishness**

רוֹקַח שְׂמֹן מִכְבוֹד מִחֲכָמָה יָקָר  
ej'aiou hdu'smato": timion o'ijon sof'ia"

**is weightier than wisdom, than honor.**

מִעֵט מִכָּלֹת  
u'per doxan af'rosunh" mega'h".

#### (2) *A* wise heart goes to his right,

ב. לִימִינוּ לֵב סוֹף  
kardia sof'ou' ej' dexion au'tou'

**but *A* foolish heart goes to his left.**

לְשִׂמְאֵלוֹ כְּסִיל וְלֵב  
kai; kardia af'rono" ej' aj'risteron au'tou':

#### (3) And also, in the way when *a* fool

ג. בְּדַרְדָּרֵי-וָגֵם [כְּשֶׁהֶסְכֵּל] (כְּשֶׁהֶסְכֵּל)  
kaivge ej' odw' of'an af'rw'n

***is* walking, his heart *is* lacking, and he has said**

וְאָמַר הֲלֹא לִבִּי חָסֵר  
poreuht ai, kardia au'tou' u'st' erh'sei, kai; a'logieit ai

**to everyone *that* he *is* *a* fool.**

לְכָל הוּא סָכֵל  
panta af'rosunh ej'stin.

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#### (4) If *the spirit of the ruler*

ד. המושל ריח-אם  
eʃan pneuma tou'ejousiazonto"

**rises up against you,**

תעלה עליך  
aʃabh' epi; sey

**do not leave your place;**

מקומך תנח-אל  
t opou sou mh; af h' ,

**because composure pacifies great sins.**

כי גדולים תטאים נניה מרפא:  
oʃi iʃama katapausei amartia" megal'a" .

#### (5) There is evil

ה. רעה יש  
eʃt in ponhria,

**I have seen under the sun,**

השמש תחת ראייתי  
hʃ eidon uʃo; ton hʃ ion,

**like unintentional *sin* going out**

כשגגה שיצא  
wl' aʃkousion, oʃekhʃ qen

**from the presence of the ruler:**

מלפני השליט:  
apo; proswpou tou'ejousiazonto":

#### (6) folly has been placed in many high *positions*,

ו. בתן הסכל במרומים  
eʃdoʃh oʃaf rwn eʃ uʃyesi megal'oi" ,

**and many rich men are sitting in the low place.**

ישבו בשפל ועשירים רבים:  
kai; plousioi eʃn tapeinw/kaʃhʃont ai:

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**(7) I have seen slaves upon horses,**

ז.        סוסים-על        עבדים        ראיתי  
          eidon        doulou"        ef Æippou"

**and rulers walking as slaves upon the earth.**

          הארץ-על        פועבדים        הלכים        ושרים  
kai; aḥ'conta" poreuomenou" w' doulou" epi;th" gh".

**(8) The one digging a pit will fall in it;**

ח.        יפול        בו        גומץ        חפר  
          ofouresswn        bouiron ejh auṭw'ejmpeseit ai,

**and the one breaking through a wall, a snake will bite him.**

          יפריץ        גדר        ישכנו        נקש:  
kai;        kaqairouhta        f'ragmon, dhxetai auṭon of i":

**(9) The one removing stones will be hurt by them;**

ט.        בָּהֶם        יַעֲצֹב        אֲבָנִים        מְסִיעַ  
          ejh auṭoi",        liṭou" diaponhqhsset ai ejh auṭoi",

**the one splitting wood will be endangered by them.**

          יָבֹם:        יִסְכֵּן        יַעֲצִים        בּוֹקֵעַ  
          ejh auṭoi" .        kinduneusei        xuṭa        sciṡwn

**(10) If the iron has become dull,**

י.        הַבְּרִזָּל        קָהָה-אֵם  
          to;sidhrion,        ejan ekpesh/

**and he has not sharpened the edges,**

          קִלְקַל        פָּנִים-לֹא        הוּא  
          ej araxen,        proswpon        kai; auṭo;"

**then he will apply more strength;**

          יִגְבֵּר        וְחִלִּים  
          dunamwsei,        kai; dunamei"

**But wisdom causes an advantage for success.**

          חֲכָמָה:        הַכָּשִׁיר        וַיִּתְרוֹן  
          sof ia.        tou' aḥdreiou        kai; perisseia

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**(11) If the snake will bite before being charmed,**

אֵי.      יֵשׁ-אֶם      הַנָּחָשׁ      לְחַשׁ-בְּלוֹא  
ej̄an dakh/      ol'of i "      ej̄n oujyiqurismw/

**then there *is* no advantage to a master of the tongue.**

וְאֵין      יְתָרוֹן      לְבַעַל      הַלְשׁוֹן.  
kai; ouk ešt in      perisseia      tw/epalonti.