

{21} Ecclesiastes

(18) Yes, I hated all my labor which I had taken under the sun: because I should leave it to the man who will come after me.

(19) And who knows whether he will be a wise *man* or a fool? yet he will have rule over all my labor in which I have labored, and in which I have shown myself wise under the sun. This *is* also vanity.

(20) Therefore I went about to cause my heart to despair of all the labor which I took under the sun.

(21) Because there is a man whose labor *is* in wisdom, and in knowledge, and in fairness; yet to a man who has not labored in it he will leave it *for* his portion. This also *is* vanity and a great evil.

(22) Because what has man of all his labor, and of the trouble of his heart, in which he has labored under the sun?

(23) Because all his days *are* sorrows, and his labor grief; yes, his heart does not take rest in the night. This is also vanity.

(24) *There is* nothing better for a man, *than* that he should eat and drink, and *that* he should make his soul good in his labor. This also I saw, that it *was* from the hand of God.

(25) Because who can eat, or who else can hurry *to it*, more than I?

(26) Because *God* gives to a man what is good in His sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner He gives trouble, to gather and to heap up, that He may give to *him what is* good before God. This also *is* vanity and trouble of spirit.

Chapter 3

(1) To everything *there is* a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

(2) A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to reap *that which is* planted;

(3) A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

(4) A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

(5) A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

(6) A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

(7) A time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

(8) A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

(9) What profit does he have who works in that in which he labors?

(10) I have seen the trouble, which God has given to the sons of men to be exercised in it.

(11) He has made everything beautiful in His time: He has also set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God makes from the beginning to the end.

(12) I know that *there is* no good in them, but for *a man* to rejoice, and to do good in his life.

(13) And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labor, it *is* the gift of God.

{21} Ecclesiastes

(14) I know that, whatever God does, it will be forever: nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it: and God does it, that *men* should fear {reverence} Him.

(15) That which has been is now; and that which is to be has already been; and God requires that which is past.

(16) And furthermore I saw under the sun the place of judgment, *that* wickedness *was* there; and the place of righteousness, *that* sin *was* there.

(17) I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the wicked: because *there is* a time there for every purpose and for every work.

(18) I said in my heart concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might reveal them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts.

(19) Because that which happens to the sons of men happens to beasts; even one thing happens to them: as the one dies, so dies the other; yes, they have all one breath; so that a man has no prominence above a beast: because all *is* vanity.

(20) All go to one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.

(21) Who knows the spirit of man that goes upward, and the spirit of the beast that goes downward to the earth?

(22) Therefore I perceive that *there is* nothing better, than that a man should rejoice in his own works; because that *is* his portion: because who will bring him to see what will be after him?

Chapter 4

(1) So I returned, and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun: and indeed the tears of *such as were* oppressed, and they had no comforter; and on the side of their oppressors *there was* power; but they had no comforter.

(2) Therefore I praised the dead which are already dead more than the living which are yet alive.

(3) Yes, better *is he* than both they, which have not yet been, who has not seen the evil work that is done under the sun.

(4) Again, I considered all trouble, and every right work, for which a man is envied by his neighbor. This *is* also vanity and trouble of spirit.

(5) The fool folds his hands together, and eats his own flesh.

(6) Better *is* a handful *with* quietness, than both the hands full *with* trouble and turmoil of spirit.

(7) Then I returned, and I saw vanity under the sun.

(8) There is one *alone*, and *there is* not a second; yes, he has neither child nor brother: yet *is there* no end of all his labor; neither is his eye satisfied with riches; neither does *he ask*, For whom do I labor, and deprive my soul of good? This *is* also vanity, yes, it *is* a great trouble.