

Customized reading

[Koheles/Ecclesiastes]

(2)1: I said in my heart, Come now, I will pour out some joy and enjoy pleasure;

and behold, this also was vanity. 2: I said of laughter, It is foolishness;

and of joy, What does it accomplish? 3: I searched in my heart how to affect my flesh with wine,

my heart yet guiding me with wisdom, and how to lay hold of folly, until I might see

what it was good for the sons of men that they should do under heaven all the days of their lives.

4: I made myself great works. I built myself houses. I planted myself vineyards.

5: I made myself gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all kinds of fruit.

6: I made myself pools of water, to water therefrom the forest where trees are growing.

7: I bought men-servants and maid-servants, and had servants born in my house. I also had great possessions of herds and flocks, above all who were before me in Yerushalayim;

8: I also gathered silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and of the provinces. I got myself men-singers and women-singers, and the delights of the sons of men, carriages of all sorts.

9: So I was great, and increased more than all who were before me in Yerushalayim. My wisdom also remained with me.

10: Whatever my eyes desired, I didn't keep from them. I didn't withhold my heart from any joy,

for my heart rejoiced because of all my labor,

and this was my portion from all my labor. 11: Then I looked at all the works that my hands had worked, and at the labor that I had labored to do; and behold, all was vanity and a chasing after wind,

and there was no profit under the sun. 12: I turned myself to consider wisdom,

madness, and folly: for what can the king's successor do? Just that which has already been done.

1(2) אָמַרְתִּי אָנִי בְּלִבִּי לְכֹה־נָא אֲנִסְכָּה בְּשִׂמְחָה וְרָאָה

בְּטוֹב וְהִנֵּה גַם־הוּא הֶבֶל: 2 לְשִׁחֻק אָמַרְתִּי מִהוֹלָל

וּלְשִׂמְחָה מִה־זֶה עֲשֵׂה: 3 תַּרְתִּי בְּלִבִּי לְמִשְׁוֹךְ בֵּינִן אֶת־

בְּשָׂרִי וְלִבִּי נִהְגַּ בְּחָכְמָה וְלֶאֱחֹז בְּסִכְלוֹת עַד אֲשֶׁר־אֶרְאֶה

אִי־זֶה טוֹב לְבְנֵי הָאָדָם אֲשֶׁר יַעֲשׂוּ תַּחַת הַשָּׁמַיִם מִסֵּפֶר

יָמֵי חַיֵּיהֶם: 4 הִגְדַּלְתִּי מַעֲשֵׂי בְנֵי־תִי לִי בְּתֵימַם נִטְעַתִּי לִי

כַּרְמִים: 5 עָשִׂיתִי לִי גִנּוֹת וּפְרֻדְסִים וְנִטְעַתִּי בָהֶם עֵץ

כָּל־פְּרִי: 6 עָשִׂיתִי לִי בְּרִכּוֹת מַיִם לְהַשְׁקוֹת מֵהֶם יַעַר צוֹמֵחַ

עֵצִים: 7 קָנִיתִי עֲבָדִים וּשְׁפָחוֹת וּבְנֵי־בַיִת הָיָה לִי גַם מִקְנֵה

בָּקָר וְצֹאן הַרְבִּיֶּה הָיָה לִי מִכֹּל שֶׁהָיוּ לִפְנֵי בִירוּשָׁלָּם:

8 כִּנְסַתִּי לִי גַם־כֶּסֶף וְזָהָב וּסְגָלַת מְלָכִים וְהַמְדִינּוֹת עָשִׂיתִי

לִי שָׂרִים וְשָׂרוֹת וְתַעֲנַגּוֹת בְּנֵי הָאָדָם שְׂדֵה וְשִׂדּוֹת:

9 וְגִדַּלְתִּי וְהוֹסַפְתִּי מִכֹּל שֶׁהָיָה לִפְנֵי בִירוּשָׁלָּם אַף חָכְמָתִי

עָמְדָה לִי: 10 וְכֹל אֲשֶׁר שָׁאַלּוּ עֵינַי לֹא אֶצְלַתִּי מֵהֶם לֹא־

מִנְעַתִּי אֶת־לִבִּי מִכָּל־שִׂמְחָה כִּי־לִבִּי שִׂמַּח מִכָּל־עֲמָלִי

וְזֶה־הָיָה חֶלְקִי מִכָּל־עֲמָלִי: 11 וּפְנִיתִי אָנִי בְּכָל־מַעֲשֵׂי שֶׁעָשׂוּ

יָדַי וּבִעֲמָל שֶׁעֲמַלְתִּי לַעֲשׂוֹת וְהִנֵּה הֶבֶל הָבֵל וְרַעוֹת רוּחַ

וְאֵין יִתְרוֹן תַּחַת הַשָּׁמַשׁ: 12 וּפְנִיתִי אָנִי לְרֵאוֹת חָכְמָה

וְהוֹלָלוֹת וְסִכְלוֹת כִּי מִה הָאָדָם שִׁיבּוֹא אַחֲרַי הַמְּלֹךְ אֶת

13: Then I saw that wisdom excels folly,

as far as light excels darkness. 14: The wise man's eyes are in his head,

and the fool walks in darkness; and yet I perceived that one event happens to them all.

15: Then said I in my heart, As it happens to the fool, so will it happen even to me;

and why was I then more wise? Then said I in my heart

that this also is vanity. 16: For of the wise man, even as of the fool, there is no memory for ever,

seeing that in the days to come all will have been long forgotten. Alas, the wise man must die just like the fool!

17: So I hated life, because grievous to me was the work

that is worked under the sun; for all is vanity and a chasing after wind. 18: I hated all my labor

in which I labored under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who comes after me.

19: Who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will have rule over all of my labor

in which I have labored, and in which I have showed myself wise under the sun. This also is vanity.

20: Therefore I began to cause my heart to despair concerning all the labor in which I had labored under the sun.

21: For there is a man whose labor is with wisdom, with knowledge, and with skillfulness;

yet he shall leave it to a man who has not labored therein for his portion. This also is vanity and a great evil.

22: For what has a man of all his labor, and of the striving of his heart, in which he labors under the sun?

23: For all his days are sorrows, and his travail is grief, even in the night his heart takes no rest.

This also is vanity. 24: There is nothing better for a man than that he should eat and drink,

and make his soul enjoy good in his labor. This also I saw,

that it is from the hand of God. 25: For who can eat, or who can have enjoyment, more than I?

26: For to the man who pleases Him, God gives wisdom, knowledge, and joy; but to the sinner He gives travail, to gather and to heap up,

אֲשֶׁר-כָּבֵד עָשׂוּהוּ: 13: וְרָאִיתִי אֲנִי שֵׁשׁ יִתְרוֹן לְחָכְמָה

מִן-הַסִּכְלוֹת כִּי-יִתְרוֹן הָאֹר מִן-הַחֹשֶׁךְ: 14: הַחֶכֶם עֵינָיו

בְּרֹאשׁוֹ וְהַסִּיל בַּחֹשֶׁךְ הוֹלֵךְ וַיֵּדַעְתִּי גַם-אֲנִי שֶׁמְקִרָה

אֶחָד יִקְרָה אֶת-כָּלֶם: 15: וְאָמַרְתִּי אֲנִי בְּלִבִּי כִּמְקִרָה הַסִּיל

גַם-אֲנִי יִקְרָנִי וְלָמָּה חֲכַמְתִּי אֲנִי אֲזוּ יִתֵּר וְדַבַּרְתִּי בְּלִבִּי

שֶׁגַם-זֶה הֶבֶל: 16: כִּי אֵין זְכוּרוֹן לְחָכָם עִם-הַסִּיל לְעוֹלָם

בְּשִׁכְבָּר הַיָּמִים הַבָּאִים הַכֹּל נִשְׁכַּח וְאִיךָ יָמוֹת הַחֶכֶם

עִם-הַסִּיל: 17: וְשָׂנֵאתִי אֶת-הַחַיִּים כִּי רַע עָלַי הַמַּעֲשֵׂה

שֶׁנַּעֲשֵׂה תַחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ כִּי-הֶכֶל הֶבֶל וְרַעוּת רוּחַ: 18: וְשָׂנֵאתִי

אֲנִי אֶת-כָּל-עַמְלִי שֶׁאֲנִי עֹמֵל תַּחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ שֶׁאֲנִיחֵנוּ לְאָדָם

שֶׁיְהִי אַחֲרָי: 19: וּמִי יוֹדַע הַחֶכֶם יִהְיֶה אֹ אוֹ סָכָל וַיִּשְׁלַט

בְּכָל-עַמְלִי שֶׁעֲמַלְתִּי וְשֶׁחֲכַמְתִּי תַחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ גַם-זֶה הֶבֶל:

20: וְסִבּוֹתַי אֲנִי לִיֹאֵשׁ אֶת-לִבִּי עַל כָּל-הָעֲמָל שֶׁעֲמַלְתִּי תַחַת

הַשָּׁמֶשׁ: 21: כִּי-יֵשׁ אָדָם שֶׁעֲמָלוֹ בְּחָכְמָה וּבְדַעַת וּבְכִשְׂרוֹן

וּלְאָדָם שֶׁלֹא עָמַל-בוֹ יִתְּנֵנוּ חֶלְקוֹ גַם-זֶה הֶבֶל וְרַעַה רַבָּה:

22: כִּי מִה־הוּא לְאָדָם בְּכָל-עַמְלוֹ וּבְרַעְיוֹן לִבּוֹ שֶׁהוּא עֹמֵל

תַּחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ: 23: כִּי כָל-יָמָיו מְכָאָבִים וְכַעַס עֲנִיָּו גַם-

בְּלִילָה לֹא-שָׁכַב לִבּוֹ גַם-זֶה הֶבֶל הוּא: 24: אֵין-טוֹב בְּאָדָם

שֶׁיֹאכַל וְשָׁתָה וְהִרְאָה אֶת-נַפְשׁוֹ טוֹב בְּעַמְלוֹ גַם-זֶה רָאִיתִי

אֲנִי כִּי מִיַד הָאֱלֹהִים הִיא: 25: כִּי מִי יֹאכַל וּמִי יַחֲוֵשׁ חוּץ מִמֶּנִּי:

26: כִּי לְאָדָם שֶׁטוֹב לְפָנָיו נָתַן חָכְמָה וְדַעַת וְשִׂמְחָה וְלַחֲוֹטָא

that he may give to him who pleases God. This also is vanity and a chasing after wind.

נָתַן עֵינָיו לְאַסְףָּה וְלִכְנוֹס לְתֵת לְטוֹב לְפָנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים גַּם־זֶה
הַבָּל וּרְעוֹת רוּחַ: