

# **Ecclesiastes 4:1-6**

Literal English Translation  
Trilinear Text

**Ecclesiastes 4:1-6**  
Literal English Translation

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

**Ecclesiastes 4:1-16**  
**The Observations of the Human Condition**

Ecclesiastes 4:1-3  
The Observation of Oppression

Ecclesiastes 4:1  
The Condition of Suffering

**1) And I had returned again, I *myself*,  
and saw all of the oppressions  
which *are* happening under the sun.  
And behold *the* tears of the ones being oppressed,  
and for them *there was* no comforter!  
And from *the* hand of the ones oppressing them *was* power;  
and for them *there was* no comforter.**

Ecclesiastes 4:2-3  
The Conclusion concerning Oppression

**2) And I commended, I *myself*, the dead,  
who already had died,  
more than the living  
who they themselves *are* still alive.**

**3) And better than both of them  
*is the one* who has not yet existed,  
who has not seen the evil work  
which has been done under the sun.**

## **Ecclesiastes 4:1-6**

### Literal English Translation

Ecclesiastes 4:4-6

#### The Observation of Envy

Ecclesiastes 4:4

The Condition of Success

**4) And I have seen, I *myself*,  
all labor, and all success of work,  
that it is envied of a man  
against his neighbor;  
this also *is* vanity and chasing of wind.**

Ecclesiastes 4:5

The Contrast with the Fool

**5) The fool *is* folding his hands together  
and *is* eating his own flesh.**

Ecclesiastes 4:6

The Conclusion: A Proverb

**6) Better *is a* handful of rest,  
than *two* handfuls of labor  
and chasing of wind.**

## Ecclesiastes 4:1-6

### Trilinear Text

#### 1) And I had returned again, I myself, and I saw

א. וַשְׁבֹּתִי אֲנִי וַאֲרָאָה  
Καὶ ἐπέστρεψα ἐγὼ καὶ εἶδον

#### all of the oppressions

הַעֲשָׂקִים-כָּל-אֵת  
σὺν πάσας τὰς συκοφαντίας

#### which are happening under the sun:

אֲשֶׁר נֶעֱשִׂים תַּחַת הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ  
τὰς γινομένας ὑπὸ τὸν ἥλιον·

#### and behold the tears of the ones being oppressed,

וַהֲגִהָ דְמַעֲתַי הַעֲשָׂקִים  
καὶ ἰδοὺ δάκρυον τῶν συκοφαντουμένων,

#### and for them there was no comforter;

וְאֵין לָהֶם מְנַחֵם  
καὶ οὐκ ἔστιν αὐτοῖς παρακαλῶν,

#### and from the hand of the ones oppressing them was power;

וּמִיַּד עֹשֵׂקֵיהֶם כֹּחַ  
καὶ ἀπὸ χειρὸς συκοφαντούντων αὐτοὺς ἰσχύς,

#### and for them there was no comforter.

וְאֵין לָהֶם מְנַחֵם:  
καὶ οὐκ ἔστιν αὐτοῖς παρακαλῶν.

#### 2) And I commended, I myself, the dead

ב. וַשְׁבַּחַתִּי אֲנִי הַמֵּתִים-תָּא  
καὶ ἐπήνεσα ἐγὼ σὺν τοὺς τεθνηκότας

#### who already had died, more than the living

שְׁכַבְרֵי מֵתֵי-מֵן  
τοὺς ἤδη ἀποθανόντας ὑπὲρ τοὺς ζῶντας,

#### who they themselves are still alive.

אֲשֶׁר הֵמָּה עֹדֵי-חַיִּים:  
ὅσοι αὐτοὶ ζῶσιν ἕως τοῦ νῦν·

## Ecclesiastes 4:1-6

### Trilinear Text

#### 3) And, better than both of them *is the one*

ג.       טוב                      משניהם  
καὶ ἀγαθὸς ὑπὲρ τοὺς δύο τούτους

#### who has not yet existed,

      היה לא עֲדָן-אֲשֶׁר אַת  
ὅστις οὐπω ἐγένετο,

#### who has not seen the evil work

אֲשֶׁר       הָרַע הַמַּעֲשֵׂה-אֶת רָאָה-לֹא  
ὅς οὐκ εἶδεν σὺν τὸ ποίημα τὸ πονηρὸν

#### which has been done under the sun.

אֲשֶׁר       נַעֲשָׂה תחת       הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ:  
τὸ       πεποιημένον ὑπὸ τὸν ἥλιον.

#### 4) And I have seen, I *myself*, all labor,

ד.       וְרָאִיתִי               אֲנִי       עֲמַל-כָּל-אֶת  
Καὶ εἶδον ἐγὼ σὺν πάντα τὸν μόχθον

#### and all success of work,

וְאֵת       הַמַּעֲשֵׂה כְשֶׁרוֹן-כָּל  
καὶ σὺν πᾶσαν ἀνδρείαν τοῦ ποιήματος,

#### that it *is* envied of a man

      אִישׁ-קְנָאָת       היא כִּי  
ὅτι αὐτὸ ζήλος ἀνδρὸς

#### against his neighbor.

      מֵרֵעֵהוּ  
ἀπὸ τοῦ ἐταίρου αὐτοῦ·

#### This also *is* vanity and chasing of wind.

      רוּחַ       וְרֵעוֹת       הַבָּל       זָה-גַם  
καὶ γε τοῦτο ματαιότης καὶ προαίρεσις πνεύματος.

## Ecclesiastes 4:1-6

### Trilinear Text

#### 5) The fool *is* folding his hands together,

ה. הַכְּסִיל הִבְקֵת יָדָיו-תְּאֵת  
ὁ ἄφρων περιέλαβεν τὰς χεῖρας αὐτοῦ

#### and *is* eating his own flesh.

וְאָכַל בְּשָׂרוֹ-וְאָכַל  
καὶ ἔφαγεν τὰς σάρκας αὐτοῦ.

#### 6) Better *is a* handful of rest,

ו. טוֹב כַּף מְלֵא נַחַת  
ἀγαθὸν πλήρωμα δρακὸς ἀναπαύσεως

#### than *two* handfuls of labor

עֵמֶל קַפְּנִים מִמְּלֵא  
ὑπὲρ πλήρωμα δύο δρακῶν μόχθου

#### and chasing of wind.

וְרָעוּת רֹגֵז  
καὶ προαιρέσεως πνεύματος.