

Ecclesiastes 4:7-12

Literal English Translation
Trilinear Text

Ecclesiastes 4:7-12
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.**

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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 4:7-12

The Observation of Aloneness

Ecclesiastes 4:7-8
The Condition of Singleness

**7) Then I had returned again, I *myself*,
and I saw vanity under the sun.**

**8) There is one, and *there is* not a second *one*;
also a son and brother *there is* not to him;
and *there is* not *an* end to all of his labor;
also his eyes will not be satisfied *with* wealth;
and *he says*, For whom am I laboring,
and depriving my soul from goodness?
Also this *is* vanity, and it *is* *an* occupation of evil.**

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Ecclesiastes 4:9
The Companionship Proverb

**9) Better are the two than the one;
because there is for them
a good reward in their labor.**

Ecclesiastes 4:10-12
The Compensations of Companionship

**10) Because if they will fall,
the one will lift up his companion.
But woe to him, the one who will fall,
and *there is not a second one* to raise him up.**

**11) Also if two will lie down *together*,
then it will have been warm for them;
but for one, how will he be warmed?**

**12) And if *someone* will overpower him - the one,
the two will stand against him;
and the threefold cord will be not quickly torn apart.**

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7) Then I had returned again, I myself

ז. וְשָׁבִיתִי אֲנִי
Καὶ ἐπέστρεψα ἐγὼ

and I saw vanity under the sun.

וַאֲרָאָה תַּחַת הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ
καὶ εἶδον ματαιότητα ὑπὸ τὸν ἥλιον.

8) There is one,

ח. יֵשׁ אֶחָד
ἔστιν εἷς,

and *there is not a second one*;

וְאֵין שֵׁנִי
καὶ οὐκ ἔστιν δεύτερος,

also, a son and brother there was not to him:

גַּם בֶּן אָח לֹא-אֵין
καὶ γε υἱὸς καὶ ἀδελφὸς οὐκ ἔστιν αὐτῷ·

and *there is not an end to all of his labor*;

וְאֵין קֵץ לְעִמְלֹ-לְכָל
καὶ οὐκ ἔστιν περασμὸς τῷ παντὶ μόχθῳ αὐτοῦ,

also his eyes will not be satisfied *with* wealth;

וְעֵינָיו לֹא-תִשְׂבַּע-לֵא [עֵינָיו] - גַּם עֶשְׂרִים
καὶ γε ὀφθαλμὸς αὐτοῦ οὐκ ἐμπίπλῃται πλούτου.

and *he says*, For whom am I laboring,

וְלִמִּי אֲנִי עֹמֵל
καὶ τίμι ἐγὼ μοχθῶ

and depriving my soul from goodness?

וּמִטֹּבָה נַפְשִׁי-תֵאָחַד
καὶ στερίσκω τὴν ψυχὴν μου ἀπὸ ἀγαθωσύνης;

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Also this is vanity,

הַבָּל הַזֶּה
καὶ γε τοῦτο ματαιότης

and, it is an occupation of evil.

הוּא עֵצָה רָעָה
καὶ περισπασμὸς πονηρὸς ἐστίν

9) Better are the two than the one;

ט. טוֹבִים מִן הַשְּׁנַיִם
ἀγαθοὶ οἱ δύο ὑπὲρ τὸν ἓνα,

because there is for them

לְהֵם-יֵשׁ אֲשֶׁר
οἷς ἐστίν αὐτοῖς

a good reward in their labor.

בְּעֵמְלָם טוֹב שְׂכָר
μισθὸς ἀγαθὸς ἐν μόχθῳ αὐτῶν·

10) Because if they will fall,

י. כִּי יִפְלוּ-אֵם
ὅτι ἐὰν πέσωσιν,

the one will lift up his companion:

הַחֵדָּה יִקִּים חֵבְרוֹ-אֵת
ὁ εἷς ἐγερῆι τὸν μέτοχον αὐτοῦ,

but woe to him the one who will fall;

וְאֵילֹו שִׁפְלָה
καὶ οὐαὶ αὐτῷ τῷ ἐνί, ὅταν πέσῃ

and there is not a second one to raise him up.

וְאֵין שְׁנִי לְהַקִּימוֹ
καὶ μὴ ἦ δεύτερος τοῦ ἐγεῖραι αὐτόν.

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11) Also, if two will lie down *together*,

יא. שְׁנַיִם יִשְׁכְּבוּ-אִם גַּם יֵא.
καὶ γὰρ ἐὰν κοιμηθῶσιν δύο,

then it will have been warm for them:

וְהָיָה לָהֶם חֶמֶד
καὶ θέρμη αὐτοῖς·

but for one how will he be warmed?

וְיִלְאָהוּד אֵיךְ יִיָּחַם
καὶ ὁ εἷς πῶς θερμανθή;

12) And if *someone* will overpower him - the one,

יב. יִתְקַפּוּ-אִם הָאֶחָד

the two will stand against him;

וְעָמְדוּ נִגְדוֹ שְׁנַיִם

and the threefold cord will not be quickly torn apart.

וְיִנְתֵּק בְּמַהֲרָה לֹא הַמְשָׁלְשׁ וְהַחוּט