

Ecclesiastes 7:23-29

Literal English Translation
Trilinear Text

Ecclesiastes 7:1-29
Literal English Translation

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

Ecclesiastes 7:1-29
The Application of Wisdom

Ecclesiastes 7:1-10
The Contrasts between the Wise and the Fool

Ecclesiastes 7:1
Concerning Reputation

- (1) A good name *is* better
than olive oil;
and the day of death *is better*
than the day of his birth.**

Ecclesiastes 7:2-4
Concerning Rejoicing

- (2) *It is* better to go
into the house of mourning
than to go into the house of feasting;
in which it *is the* end of every man;
and the living man
will place *it* into his heart.**
- (3) Better *is* grief than laughter;
because in sadness of *the* face
the heart will be good.**
- (4) *The* heart of wise men
is in the house of mourning;
and *the* heart of fools
is in the house of rejoicing.**

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Ecclesiastes 7:5-6
Concerning Rebuke

- (5) *It is better to hear
the rebuke of a wise man
than a man listening
to the song of fools.*
- (6) *Because like the sound
of the thorns under the pot,
this way is the laughter of the fool.*
- And also this is vanity.*

Ecclesiastes 7:7
Concerning Resistance

- (7) *Because the oppression
makes foolish a wise man;
and a bribe
will destroy the heart.*

Ecclesiastes 7:8-9
Concerning Restraint

- (8) *Better is the end of a matter
than its beginning;
better is the patient of spirit
than haughty of spirit.*
- (9) *Do not be quick
in your spirit to be angry;
because anger will rest
in the bosom of fools.*

Ecclesiastes 7:10
Concerning Reflection

- (10) *Do not say,
Why has it that the former days
have been better than these?
Because it was not from out of wisdom
that you had asked concerning this.*

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Ecclesiastes 7:11-14 The Commendation of Wisdom

Ecclesiastes 7:11-12
Concerning Reliance

**(11) Good is wisdom with *an* inheritance;
and, *a* benefit to the seers of the sun.**

**(12) Because in *a* shadow is wisdom;
and in *a* shadow is silver;
and *the* benefit of knowledge
is *that* wisdom will give life to its possessors.**

Ecclesiastes 7:13-14
Concerning Response

**(13) Consider the work of God;
Because who is able to make straight
what He has made crooked?**

**(14) In *the* day of goodness, be in good *spirit*,
and in *the* day of adversity, observe: also this
alongside of this *other* God has made
concerning the matter,
so that man will not find anything after him.**

Ecclesiastes 7:15-18 The Contradiction between Righteousness and Wickedness

Ecclesiastes 7:15
Concerning Retribution

**(15) All the things I have seen
in *the* days of my vanity;
there is *a* righteous *man*
perishing in his righteousness,
and there is *a* wicked *man*
prolonging *his life* in his evil.**

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Ecclesiastes 7:16-17
Concerning Remedy

**(16) Do not be overly righteous,
nor make yourself excessively wise;
for why ruin yourself?**

**(17) Do not be overly wicked,
and do not be a fool;
for why will you die
when *it is* not your time?**

Ecclesiastes 7:18
Concerning Result

**(18) *It is* good
that you will take hold in this;
and also from this do not let your hand rest;
because the one fearing God
will come out from all of them.**

Ecclesiastes 7:19-22
The Correct Perspective of Wisdom

Ecclesiastes 7:19-20
Concerning Human Strength

**(19) Wisdom is stronger for the wise man
than ten rulers who have been in the city.**

**(20) Because *there is* no righteous man in the earth
who does good, and does not sin.**

Ecclesiastes 7:21-22
Concerning Human Communication

**(21) Also, to all of the words
which they are speaking, do not set your heart,
so that you will not hear your servant cursing you.**

**(22) Because also many times your heart has known
that also you yourself have cursed others.**

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Ecclesiastes 7:23-29 The Complexities of Womanhood

Ecclesiastes 7:23-25
Concerning Solomon's Investigation

**(23) All this I have tested in wisdom:
I have said, I will be wise;
but it *was* far from me.**

**(24) That which has become
far off and very deep,
who can find it?**

**(25) I myself have turned around also my heart,
to know, and to search out,
and to seek out wisdom,
and the explanation *of things*,
and to know the wickedness of folly,
and the foolishness *and* madness:**

Ecclesiastes 7:26-29
Concerning Solomon's Conclusion

**(26) and I myself *am* finding more bitter than death
the woman whose traps and nets are her heart;
chains *are* her hands.
A good *man* before God will escape from her;
but *the* sinner will be captured by her.**

**(27) See, this *that* I have found, has said *the* Preacher,
adding one to one to find out the explanation,**

**(28) which still my soul has sought,
but I have not found;
A man, one from out of *a* thousand, I have found,
but *a* woman among all of these I have not found.**

**(29) Only, see this *that* I have found,
that God has made mankind upright,
but they themselves have sought many inventions.**

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23) All this I have tested in wisdom:

כג. בְּחִכְמָה נִסִּיתִי זֶה-כֹּל.
Πάντα ταῦτα ἐπέειρασα ἐν τῇ σοφίᾳ.

I have said, I will be wise; but it was far from me.

אָמַרְתִּי מְמַנִּי רַחֲוֹקָה הָיְיָ אֵלַי בְּחִכְמָה
εἶπα Σοφισθήσομαι, καὶ αὐτὴ ἐμακρύνθη ἀπ' ἐμοῦ

24) That which has become far off and very deep,

כד. עֲמֹק וְעֲמֹק שֶׁהָיְתָה-מֵה רַחֲוֹק
μακρὰν ὑπὲρ ὃ ἦν, καὶ βαθὺν βάθος,

who can find it?

מִי יִמְצָאנוּ?
τίς εὐρήσει αὐτό;

25) I myself have turned around also my heart, to know,

כה. אָנִי סָבֹוֹתִי לִבִּי : לְדַעַת
ἐκύκλωσα ἐγώ, καὶ ἡ καρδία μου τοῦ γινῶναι

and to search out, and to seek out wisdom,

וְלָתוּר וְלִבְקֹשׁ בְּחִכְמָה
καὶ τοῦ κατασκέψασθαι καὶ ζητῆσαι σοφίαν

and the explanation of things,

וְהַשְׁבִּיחַ
καὶ ψῆφον

and to know the wickedness of folly,

וְלִדְעַת רָשָׁע קֶסֶל
καὶ τοῦ γινῶναι ἀσεβοῦς ἀφροσύνην

and the foolishness and madness:

וְהַכְלִיחַ הוֹלְלוֹת
καὶ σκληρίαν καὶ περιφοράν.

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26) and I myself *am* finding more bitter than death

כו. אָנִי וּמוֹצָא מִמּוֹת
καὶ εὕρισκω ἐγὼ πικρότερον ὑπὲρ θάνατον,

the woman whose traps and nets are her heart;

לִבָּהּ וְרְמִים מְצוּדִים הִיא-אֶשְׂרַר הָאִשָּׁה-הַאֲתָ
σὺν τὴν γυναῖκα, ἣτις ἐστὶν θηρεύματα καὶ σαγήναι καρδία αὐτῆς,

chains *are* her hands.

אֶסְרוֹתַי חַיֵּיהָ
δεσμοὶ χεῖρες αὐτῆς·

A good *man* before God will escape from her;

טוֹב מִמְּנָה טָמְלָהּ אֶל־הַיְהוָה לִפְנֵי
ἀγαθὸς πρὸ προσώπου τοῦ θεοῦ ἐξαιρεθήσεται ἀπ' αὐτῆς,

but *the* sinner will be captured by her.

אֶחָטָא יִלְכָד לִבָּהּ
καὶ ἁμαρτάνων συλλημφθήσεται ἐν αὐτῇ.

27) See, this *that* I have found, has said *the* Preacher,

כז. הִנֵּה הָאֵלֶּה מָצָאתִי אָמַרְהָ קְהֵלָת
ἰδὲ τοῦτο εὔρον, εἶπεν ὁ Ἐκκλησιαστής,

adding one to one to find out the reason,

אֶחָת לְאֶחָת לְמַצְאָתִי לְשׂוֹבֵת
μία τῆ μιᾶ τοῦ εὐρεῖν λογισμόν,

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28) which still my soul has sought,

כח אֲשֶׁר בְּקִשְׁתִּי-עוֹד נַפְשִׁי
ὄν ἔτι ἐζήτησεν ἡ ψυχὴ μου

but I have not found;

אֲלֵךְ מִצְאָתִי
καὶ οὐχ εὔρον·

A man, one from out of a thousand, I have found,

אֶחָד מֵאֶלֶף מִצְאָתִי
ἄνθρωπον ἓνα ἀπὸ χιλίων εὔρον

but a woman among all of these I have not found.

אִשָּׁה מִצְאָתִי לֹא
καὶ γυναῖκα ἐν πάσι τούτοις οὐχ εὔρον.

29) Only, see this *that* I have found,

כט. מִצְאָתִי הִיא-רְאֵה לְבַדּ. כט.
πλὴν ἰδὲ τοῦτο εὔρον,

that God has made mankind upright,

יָשָׁר הָאָדָם-אֵת הָאֱלֹהִים עָשָׂה אֱשֶׁר
ὁ ἐποίησεν ὁ θεὸς σὺν τὸν ἄνθρωπον εὐθῆ,

but they themselves have sought many inventions.

רַבִּים הִשְׁבִּנוֹת בְּקִשְׁוּ הֵמָּה
καὶ αὐτοὶ ἐζήτησαν λογισμοὺς πολλούς.