

DASV: Digital American Standard Version**DASV: Ecclesiastes 1**

¹ The words of the Teacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

² "Vanity of vanities,"
says the Teacher [Qohelet].
"Vanity of vanities, all is vanity."

³ What benefit does one get from all his effort
at which he toils under the sun?

⁴ A generation comes, a generation goes,
but the earth remains forever.

⁵ The sun rises, the sun sets,
and hurries back to the place where it rises again.

⁶ The wind blows to the south,
and turns around to the north;
it goes round and round,
continually circling back around.

⁷ All the rivers run into the sea,
yet the sea is not full.
To the place where the rivers flow,
there they go again.

⁸ All things are full of weariness,
more than one can ever say.
The eye is never satisfied with seeing,
or the ear filled with hearing.

⁹ That which has been
is exactly that which will be;
what has already been done,
is what will be done again.
There is nothing new under the sun.

¹⁰ Is there anything of which it may be said,
"Look, here is something new?"
It has already been done long ago,
in the ages before our time.

¹¹ No one remembers what happened in the past;
nor will anyone remember the things that are coming,
by those who come after them.

¹² I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem.

¹³ I dedicated my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven.
It is an onerous burden that God has laid on human beings to be busy about.

¹⁴ I have seen all the accomplishments that are done under the sun;
and conclude, all is vanity, as futile as chasing the wind.

¹⁵ What is crooked cannot be made straight,
what is missing cannot be counted.

¹⁶ I said to myself, "I have achieved great wisdom beyond all who ruled Jerusalem before me." My mind has carefully observed wisdom and knowledge.

¹⁷ I devoted my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly. I realized that this, too, was as futile as chasing the wind.

¹⁸ For with much wisdom, comes much grief,
the one who increases knowledge, increases sorrow.

DASV: Ecclesiastes 2

¹ I said to myself, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself." But this also was futile.

² I said of laughter, "It is madness," and of pleasure, "What does it accomplish?"

³ I searched in my heart attempting to cheer myself with wine--my heart still guiding me with wisdom--and grasping folly, so I might discover what was good for people to do under heaven during the few days of their life.

⁴ I attempted great projects. I built palaces and planted vineyards for myself.

⁵ I made gardens and parks for myself, and I planted trees with all kinds of fruit on them.

⁶ I built pools of water for myself, to irrigate groves of flourishing trees.

⁷ I bought male and female slaves, and had slaves born in my house. I also had great possessions of herds and flocks, beyond all who were before me in Jerusalem.

⁸ I accumulated silver and gold and the treasure of kings and of the provinces. I acquired male and female singers for myself, and a harem full of concubines, every sensual delight a man could want.

⁹ So I was great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem, yet my wisdom stayed with me.

¹⁰ Whatever my eyes desired I did not deny them. I did not restrain my heart from any pleasure. So my heart rejoiced because of all my pursuits; and this was my reward for all my labor.

¹¹ Then I considered everything my hands had accomplished, and on the labor that I had expended to achieve it, and yet all was futility and a mere chasing after the wind. There was nothing gained under the sun.

¹² So I turned myself to consider wisdom, madness and folly. For what more can the one who succeeds the king do? It has already been done.

¹³ Then I realized, "Wisdom is better than folly, just as light is better than darkness.

¹⁴ The wise man's eyes are in his head, but the fool walks in darkness." Yet I perceived that a similar fate happens to them all.

¹⁵ Then said I to myself, "The same fate that happens to a fool, will also happen to me, so what was the benefit for me being wise?" Then I said to myself, "This too is futile."

¹⁶ For the wise just like the fool will not be remembered for long; seeing that in the days to come everything will be forgotten. Tragically, the wise man dies just like the fool!

¹⁷ So I hated life, because the work that is done under the sun was grievous to me.

Everything is futile, a chasing after wind.

¹⁸ I hated all my labor wherein I toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the one who succeeds me.

¹⁹ Who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will control everything I have labored so hard for using my wisdom under the sun. This also is futile.

²⁰ So I turned and resigned my heart to despair concerning all the toil that I had labored under the sun.

²¹ For some people labor with wisdom, knowledge and skill and yet they must leave it to someone who has not worked for it. This also is a frustrating futility and a great tragedy.

²² For what does a person get for all his labor and anxious struggle of his heart, with which he toils under the sun?

²³ For all his days are full of sorrow, and his toil full of grief. Even in the night his heart cannot rest. This also is futile.

²⁴ There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink, and find enjoyment in his labor. I realized this too comes from the hand of God.

²⁵ For who can eat or find enjoyment without him?

²⁶ For to the one who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and joy; but to the sinner he gives the work of gathering and accumulating wealth only so that he may hand it over to the one who pleases God. This, too, is futile, a mere chasing after wind.

DASV: Ecclesiastes 3

¹ For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven:
² a time to be born,
and a time to die;
a time to plant,
and a time to pull up what has been 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 scatter stones,
and a time to gather stones;
a time to embrace,
and a time to refrain from embracing;
⁶ a time to seek,
and a time to give up searching;
a time to keep,
and a time to throw away;
⁷ a time to tear,
and a time to sew;
a time to be silent,
and a time to speak;
⁸ a time to love,
and a time to hate;
a time for war,
and a time for peace.

⁹ What does a worker really gain from all his toil?

¹⁰ I have seen the burden God has given to humanity to be busy about.

¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time, he has put eternity in their heart, yet people cannot fathom the work that God has done from the beginning even to the end.

¹² I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy, and to enjoy themselves as long as they live,

¹³ and also that everyone should eat and drink, and find enjoyment in all his labor, for this is the gift of God.

¹⁴ I know that whatever God does will last forever; nothing can be added to it, nor can

anything be taken away from it. God has done this so that humans will fear him.

¹⁵ Whatever is has already been;
so also whatever will be has already been;
for God will seek to do again what has already happened before.

¹⁶ Furthermore, I observed under the sun:
in the place of justice,
wickedness was there;
in the place of righteousness,
wickedness was there.

¹⁷ I said in my heart,
"God will judge the righteous and the wicked;
for there is a time of accounting for every matter and for every deed."

¹⁸ I said in my heart, "With regard to human beings, God tests them to prove to them that they are like the animals."

¹⁹ For that which happens to humans also happens to the animals; the same thing happens to both; as the one dies, so the other dies; they both have the same breath. Humans have no advantage over the animals; for all is futile.

²⁰ All go to the same place; all come from the dust, and all return to dust.

²¹ Who knows if the human spirit goes upward, and the spirit of the animals goes downward into the earth?

²² So I realized that there is nothing better, than that a person should rejoice in his work; for that is his lot. Who can show him what the future will be after he is gone?

DASV: Ecclesiastes 4

- ¹ Then I looked again at all the oppressions that are done under the sun.
Look, the tears of oppressed,
but they had none to comfort them.
Power was on the side of their oppressors;
but they had none to comfort them.
- ² So I thought the dead
who are already dead
are more fortunate than those living,
who are still alive.
- ³ Even better than both of them
is one who has not yet been born,
who has not seen the evil deeds
that are done under the sun.
- ⁴ Then I saw all toil and skilful work was done
because one person envied his neighbor.
This also is futile and a chasing after the wind.
- ⁵ The fool folds his hands together,
and eats his own flesh.
- ⁶ Better is a handful with quietness,
than two handfuls with toil
and chasing after the wind.
- ⁷ Again I saw futility under the sun:
⁸ There is one who is all alone,
he has neither son or brother;
yet there is no end to his toil,
and his eyes are never satisfied with riches.
"For whom then," he asks, "am I toiling
and depriving myself of pleasure?"
This also is futile,
it is a pathetic business.
- ⁹ Two are better than one,
because they have a good reward for their toil.
- ¹⁰ For if one falls,
the other will help his friend up;
but pity the one who is alone when he falls,
and has no one to help him up.
- ¹¹ Again, if two lie down together,
they can keep each other warm.

- But how can someone who is alone stay warm?
¹² Although a person may prevail against one who is alone,
two will be able to withstand him.
A rope of three cords is not quickly broken.
- ¹³ It is better to be a poor and wise youth than an old and foolish king, who does not know how to accept advice anymore.
- ¹⁴ For the youth got out of prison to become king; even though he was born poor in his kingdom.
- ¹⁵ I saw all the living who walk under the sun, follow the youth who replaced the king.
- ¹⁶ There was no end of all the people over whom he rules, yet those who come after will not be happy with him. Surely this also is futile, a chasing after the wind.

DASV: Ecclesiastes 5

- ¹ Guard you steps when you go to the house of God;
for it is better to draw near to listen,
than to offer the sacrifice of fools,
for they know not that they do evil.
- ² Do not be rash with your mouth,
do not let your heart be hasty
to utter anything before God;
for God is in heaven,
and you are on earth,
therefore let your words be few.
- ³ For just as dreams come with many cares,
so a fool's voice comes with many words.
- ⁴ When you make a vow to God,
do not delay to fulfill it;
for he has no pleasure in fools,
fulfill what you have vowed.
- ⁵ It is better that you not vow,
than that you make a vow and not fulfill it.
- ⁶ Do not allow your mouth to cause you to sin;
do not tell the temple messenger,
"It was a mistake."
Why should God be angry at your voice,
and so destroy the work of your hands?
- ⁷ For with many dreams there is futility,
so too with many words,
rather fear God.
- ⁸ If you see in a province the oppression of the poor,
and violence exploiting justice and righteousness,
do not be astonished by it,
for a high official is monitored by a higher one;
and there are ones even higher over them.
- ⁹ The produce of the land benefits everyone,
even the king is served by the field.
- ¹⁰ He who loves money will never be satisfied with money;
nor he who loves wealth with his wages.
This also is futile.
- ¹¹ When goods increase,
so do those who consume them;
so what advantage is it for its owner,
except he gets to gaze on them with his own eyes?

¹² The sleep of a hard worker is sweet,
whether he eats little or much;
but the wealth of the rich,
will not let him sleep.

¹³ There is a great misfortune I have seen under the sun,
riches hoarded by its owner,
to his own demise.

¹⁴ Those riches lost by a bad endeavor,
even though he has a son,
there will be nothing left to give him.

¹⁵ As naked as one comes from his mother's womb,
so he will depart again, naked as he came.
He can take away nothing for all his toil,
that he may carry it away in his hand.

¹⁶ This also is a great misfortune,
just as he came, so he will depart.
What gain does he get from toiling for the wind?

¹⁷ Also all his days he eats in darkness,
terribly frustrated, sick and angry.

¹⁸ This is what I have discovered to be good and appropriate: to eat and drink, and find enjoyment in all one's laborious toil under the sun, all the days of his life God has given him, for this is his lot in life.

¹⁹ Also everyone to whom God has given riches and wealth, he also has given him ability to eat them, to accept his lot, and to find enjoyment in his toil--this is the gift of God.

²⁰ For he does not constantly reflect back on the days of his life; because God keeps him occupied with the present joy of his heart.

DASV: Ecclesiastes 6

¹ There is another misfortune I have seen under the sun, and it weighs heavily on humanity:

² God give a person riches, wealth and honor, so that he lacks nothing that his heart desires, but God does not enable him to enjoy them, but a stranger enjoys it instead. This is futility and a great misfortune.

³ If a man has a hundred children and lives many years, however many the days his years are, if he does not enjoy life's benefits, and he has no decent burial; I conclude that a stillborn child is better off than he is.

⁴ For though the stillborn entered in futility, and departed into darkness, and its name was shrouded in darkness;

⁵ even though it had never seen the sun or known anything, this one has rest rather than that unhappy man.

⁶ Even if he lives a thousand years twice over, yet does not enjoy any good, do not all go to the same place?

⁷ All human toil is for the mouth,
and yet the appetite is never satisfied.

⁸ For what advantage does the wise person have over the fool?
What benefit is there for the poor,
who know how to conduct themselves before the living?

⁹ Better to be content with what the eyes see,
than the wandering of the desire for more.
This also is vanity and a chasing after wind.

¹⁰ Whatever has been, it was named long ago;
and it was known what man is;
neither can anyone argue with God about it
for there is no one stronger than he is.

¹¹ The more words, the more futility,
How does it benefit anyone?

¹² For who knows what is good for a person while he lives all the days of his brief life.
He passes by like a shadow. For who can tell someone what will happen after him under the sun?

DASV: Ecclesiastes 7

- ¹ A good name is better than precious perfume,
and the day of death better than the day of one's birth.
- ² It is better to go to the house of mourning
than to go to the house of feasting,
for that is the end of every one,
and the living should take this to heart.
- ³ Sorrow is better than laughter,
for a sad face is good for the heart.
- ⁴ The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning,
but the heart of fools is in the house of merriment.
- ⁵ It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise,
than to hear the song of fools.
- ⁶ For like the crackling of thorns burning under a pot,
so is the laughter of the fool,
this also is meaningless.
- ⁷ Surely extortion makes the wise foolish,
and a bribe corrupts the heart.
- ⁸ Better is the end of a thing than its beginning,
the patient in spirit are better than the proud in spirit.
- ⁹ Be not quick in your spirit to be angry,
for anger resides in the belly of fools.
- ¹⁰ Do not ask, "Why were the good old days better than these days?"
for it is not wise to ask this.
- ¹¹ Wisdom is as good as an inheritance,
it benefits those who see the sun.
- ¹² For wisdom protects, just like money protects;
but the benefit of knowledge is,
that wisdom preserves the life of the one who has it.
- ¹³ Consider the work of God;
for who can make straight,
what he has made crooked?
- ¹⁴ In times of prosperity be joyful,
and in times of trouble consider;
God has made the one as well as the other,
so that a person cannot discover anything that comes after him.
- ¹⁵ I have seen many things in my futile days:
a righteous person who perishes in his righteousness,
and a wicked person who lives long in his evildoing.
- ¹⁶ Do not be overly righteous,

- or attempt to be overly wise;
why should you destroy yourself?
- ¹⁷ Be not overly wicked,
and do not be a fool;
why should you die before your time?
- ¹⁸ It is good that you should take hold of this,
without letting go of the other,
for the one who fears God shall avoid all of these extremes.
- ¹⁹ Wisdom gives strength to the wise man
more than ten rulers in a city.
- ²⁰ Surely there is not a righteous person on earth,
who only does good and never sins.
- ²¹ Do not obsess over everything people say,
lest you hear your servant curse you,
- ²² for you know in your own heart
how many times you yourself have cursed others.
- ²³ All this I have tested by wisdom,
I said, "I will be wise,"
but it was far from me.
- ²⁴ That which exists,
is far off and exceeding deep,
who can figure it out?
- ²⁵ I focused my heart to know and to search out,
and to seek wisdom and the scheme of things,
and to understand how wickedness is folly,
and how foolishness is madness.
- ²⁶ I find more bitter than death,
the woman who is a snare,
and whose heart is a trap,
whose hands are like chains.
Whoever pleases God will escape from her,
but the sinner will be caught by her.
- ²⁷ Look, this is what I have discovered, says the Teacher,
adding one thing to another
attempting to figure out the scheme of things,
- ²⁸ which my soul continually sought,
but I have not found.
I found only one upright man out of a thousand,
but I have not found a single upright woman among them all.
- ²⁹ This is the only thing I have discovered:

God made man upright;
but they have sought out many schemes.

DASV: Ecclesiastes 8

- ¹ Who is like the wise?
Who knows the interpretation of a thing?
Wisdom makes a person's face to shine,
and softens the stern hardness of his face.
- ² Obey the king's command,
because you took an oath of loyalty before God.
- ³ Do not be too quick to leave his presence,
do not stand up for an evil cause,
for he can do whatever he wants to.
- ⁴ For the king's word has authority,
who can say to him,
"What are you doing?"
- ⁵ Whoever obeys a command will experience no harm,
a wise heart knows the right time and solution.
- ⁶ For every issue has its right time and solution,
even though the misery of man weighs heavy on him.
- ⁷ For no one knows what will be,
so who can tell him what will happen?
- ⁸ There is no one with the power to restrain the wind,
neither does anyone have power over the day of death,
and there is no one discharged in time of war,
neither can wickedness rescue anyone who practices it.
- ⁹ All this have I seen, as I applied my heart to everything that is done under the sun;
sometimes one person dominates another to his own hurt.
- ¹⁰ So too I saw the wicked honorably buried and those who used to go in and out of the
holy place and are now praised in the city for what they have done. This also is futility.
- ¹¹ When a sentence against a crime is not executed quickly, the human heart will be
encouraged to do evil.
- ¹² Even though a sinner does evil a hundred times, and still lives a long life, yet surely I
know that it will be well with those who fear God, because they stand before him in fear.
- ¹³ But it will not go well for the wicked, neither will he prolong his days like a shadow;
because he does not stand in fear before God.
- ¹⁴ Here is another futility that happens on earth: there are righteous people who get what
wicked deserve; similarly, there are wicked men who get what the righteous deserve. I
said that this too is futility.
- ¹⁵ So I commend enjoyment, because there is nothing better for a person under the sun,
than to eat, drink and to be happy, for this will stick with a person in his toil all the days
of his life that God has given him under the sun.

¹⁶ When I applied my heart to know wisdom, and to see the toil that is done on the earth, for people's eyes do not get any sleep day or night,

¹⁷ then I saw all the work of God, that one cannot figure out what is happening under the sun. However much a person strives to search it out, yet he cannot discover its meaning; even though the wise thinks he knows, yet he really cannot understand it.

DASV: Ecclesiastes 9

¹ So I thought about this, examining it all. The righteous and the wise along with their deeds, are in the hand of God. Whether it is love or hate, no one knows which is ahead of them.

² Everyone shares the same fate,
the righteous and the wicked,
the good and the bad,
the ceremonially clean and unclean,
the one who sacrifices and the one who does not.

What happens to the good,
also happens to the sinner;
and the same for one who makes a vow,
as the one who afraid to make a vow.

³ This is a calamity in all that is done under the sun, that the same fate happens to all. The heart of everyone is full of evil, and madness is in their heart while they live, after that they too go to the dead.

⁴ For whoever is joined with the living has hope;
for a live dog is better than a dead lion.

⁵ For the living know that they will die,
but the dead know nothing.

They have no more reward,
for even the memory of them fades.

⁶ Their love,
as well as their hatred and envy
have already perished;
never again will they have part in anything
that happens under the sun.

⁷ Go your way,
eat your bread with joy,
and drink your wine with a happy heart,
for God has already approved of what you do.

⁸ Let your garments always be white,
and let not your head lack oil.

⁹ Live joyfully with the wife whom you love all the days of your futile life that God has given you under the sun, all your futile days. For that is your lot in life and your laborious vocation under the sun.

¹⁰ Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for there is neither work or planning, or knowledge, or wisdom in the grave where you are going.

¹¹ I again observed under the sun:
the race is not to the swift,
or the battle to the strong,
or bread to the wise,

- or wealth to the intelligent,
or yet favor to the skillful;
but time and chance happen to all.
- ¹² For no one knows when his time will come:
Like fish caught in a fatal net,
or birds trapped in a snare,
so are humans snared by evil times,
when it suddenly falls on them.
- ¹³ I have also seen this example of wisdom under the sun, and it seemed significant to me.
- ¹⁴ There was a little city, with few people in it. A great king came against it, and
besieged it, and built great siege works against it.
- ¹⁵ Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he delivered the city by his wisdom;
yet no one remembered that poor man.
- ¹⁶ So I said, "Wisdom is better than strength."
But a poor man's wisdom is despised,
and his words are not listened to.
- ¹⁷ Better are the words of the wise heard in quiet
than the shouts of him who rules over fools.
- ¹⁸ Wisdom is better than weapons of war,
but one sinner destroys much good.

DASV: Ecclesiastes 10

- ¹ As dead flies cause the perfumer's ointment to stink,
so too a little folly can spoil much wisdom and honor.
- ² A wise heart guides to the right,
but a fool's heart misguides to the left.
- ³ Even when the fool walks down the road, he lacks sense,
and declares to everyone how foolish he really is.
- ⁴ If the ruler's anger flares up against you,
do not abandon your post;
for calmness can undo big mistakes.
- ⁵ There is an evil that I have seen under the sun,
it is the type of error a ruler makes:
- ⁶ fools are set in many high positions,
and the rich sit in lowly positions.
- ⁷ I have seen slaves riding on horses,
and princes walking on foot like slaves.
- ⁸ Whoever digs a pit may fall into it,
and whoever breaks through a wall may be bitten by a snake.
- ⁹ Whoever hews out stones may be hurt by them,
and whoever splits wood may be endangered by it.
- ¹⁰ If an iron ax is blunt,
and one does not sharpen the blade,
then he must exert more strength,
but wisdom helps one succeed.
- ¹¹ If a serpent bites before it is charmed,
then is there no benefit for the charmer.
- ¹² The words of a wise man's mouth win him favor,
but a fool is consumed by his own lips.
- ¹³ The words of his mouth begin with foolishness,
and his talk ends with destructive madness.
- ¹⁴ A fool multiplies words,
even though no one knows what will happen;
and who can tell what future awaits him?
- ¹⁵ The fool's work wears them out,
for he does not even know the way to town.
- ¹⁶ Woe to you, O land, when your king is a child,
and your princes feast in the morning!

¹⁷ Happy are you, O land, when your king is the son of nobleman,
and your princes feast at the proper time,
for strength, and not for drunkenness!

¹⁸ By laziness the roof sags,
and because of idle hands the house leaks.

¹⁹ A feast is made for laughter,
wine makes life happy,
and money is the answer for everything.

²⁰ Do not curse the king, even in your thoughts,
or curse the rich even in your bedroom,
for a bird of the air may carry your voice,
and something with wings may report the matter.

DASV: Ecclesiastes 11

- ¹ Send your bread across the sea,
for after many days you may gain a return from it.
- ² Divide your investments seven ways, or even eight,
for you do not know what disaster may happen on earth.
- ³ If the clouds are full of rain,
they empty themselves on the earth,
if a tree falls to the south or to the north,
in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie.
- ⁴ Whoever holds out for the perfect wind will not sow,
and whoever watches the clouds will not reap.
- ⁵ Just as you do not know the way of the wind,
or how the bones grow in a mother's womb,
even so you do not know the work of God who makes everything.
- ⁶ In the morning sow your seed,
and in the evening do not stop working,
for you do not know which will prosper,
whether this one or that one,
or whether both will be equally profitable.
- ⁷ Light is sweet,
and it is a pleasure for the eyes to see the sun.
- ⁸ If a person lives many years,
let him rejoice in them all;
but let him also remember the days of darkness,
for they will be many.
All that comes is futility.
- ⁹ Rejoice, O young man, in your youth,
and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth.
Follow in the ways of your heart,
and the desires of your eyes;
but be aware that for all these things
God will bring you into judgment.
- ¹⁰ Banish worry from your heart,
and put away pain from your flesh,
for childhood and youth are fleeting.

DASV: Ecclesiastes 12

- ¹ Remember your Creator in the days of your youth,
before the days of bodily trouble come,
and the years draw nigh,
when you will lament, "I have no pleasure in them;"
- ² before the sun, and the light,
and the moon, and the stars are darkened,
and the clouds return after the rain;
- ³ in the day when the keepers of the house tremble,
and the strong men are bent over,
and the grinders cease because they are few,
and those who look through windows grow dark;
- ⁴ and the doors to the street are shut;
when the sound of the grinding fades,
and one rises early with the sound of a bird,
yet all their songs are faint;
- ⁵ when one becomes afraid of heights,
and terrors lurk in the street;
and the almond tree blossoms,
and the grasshopper drags itself along,
and desire fails;
because man goes to his everlasting home,
and the mourners go about the streets;
- ⁶ before the silver cord is snapped,
and the golden bowl is broken,
and the pitcher is broken at the fountain,
and the wheel broken at the cistern,
- ⁷ and the dust returns to the earth as it was,
and the spirit returns to God who gave it.
- ⁸ Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher [Qohelet];
all is vanity.
- ⁹ Besides being wise, the Teacher also taught the people knowledge; he pondered, and searched out, and arranged many proverbs.
- ¹⁰ The Teacher searched to find delightful words, and write true sayings precisely.
- ¹¹ The words of the wise are like goads;
like nails firmly fixed in collected sayings,
given from one shepherd.
- ¹² Beware of anything beyond them, my son,
of the making many books there is no end;
and much study wearies the body.
- ¹³ Now that all has been heard,

here is the conclusion:

fear God, and keep his commandments;
for this is the whole duty of man.

¹⁴ For God will bring every deed into judgment,
including everything that is hidden,
whether it is good or bad.