

¹So I returned, and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun: and behold the tears of such as were oppressed, and they had no comforter; and on the side of their oppressors there was power; but they had no comforter.²Wherefore I praised the dead which are already dead more than the living which are yet alive.³Yea, better is he than both they, which hath not yet been, who hath not seen the evil work that is done under the sun.⁴Again, I considered all travail, and every right work, that for this a man is envied of his neighbour. This is also vanity and vexation of spirit.⁵The fool foldeth his hands together, and eateth his own flesh.⁶Better is an handful with quietness, than both the hands full with travail and vexation of spirit.⁷Then I returned, and I saw vanity under the sun.⁸There is one alone, and there is not a second; yea, he hath neither child nor brother: yet is there no end of all his labour; neither is his eye satisfied with riches; neither saith he, For whom do I labour, and bereave my soul of good? This is also vanity, yea, it is a sore travail.⁹Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.¹⁰For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.¹¹Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone?¹²And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.¹³Better is a poor and a wise child than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished.¹⁴For out of prison he

¹ثُمَّ رَجَعْتُ وَرَأَيْتُ كُلَّ الْمَطَالِمِ الَّتِي تُجْرَى تَحْتَ الشَّمْسِ، فَهُوَ دُمُوعُ الْمَطْلُومِينَ وَلَا مُعَزِّ لَهُمْ، وَمِنْ يَدِ ظَالِمِيهِمْ قَهْرٌ. أَمَّا هُمْ فَلَا مُعَزِّ لَهُمْ. ²فَعَبِطْتُ أَنَا الْأَمْوَاتِ الَّذِينَ قَدْ مَاتُوا مُنْذُ زَمَانٍ أَكْثَرَ مِنَ الْأَحْيَاءِ الَّذِينَ هُمْ غَائِشُونَ بَعْدُ. ³وَخَيْرٌ مِنْ كِلَيْهِمَا الَّذِي لَمْ يُولَدْ بَعْدُ، الَّذِي لَمْ يَرَ الْعَمَلَ الرَّدِيءَ الَّذِي عَمِلَ تَحْتَ الشَّمْسِ. ⁴وَرَأَيْتُ كُلَّ التَّعَبِ وَكُلَّ فَلَاحٍ عَمِلَ أَنَّهُ حَسَدُ الْإِنْسَانِ مِنْ قَرِيبِهِ. وَهَذَا أَيْضًا بَاطِلٌ وَقَبْضُ الرِّيحِ. ⁵الْكَسْلَانِ يَأْكُلُ لَحْمَهُ وَهُوَ طَاوٍ بِدَيْهِ. ⁶خُفَّتْ رَاحَةُ خَيْرٍ مِنْ حُفَّتَيِّ تَعَبٍ وَقَبْضُ الرِّيحِ. ⁷ثُمَّ عُدْتُ وَرَأَيْتُ بَاطِلًا تَحْتَ الشَّمْسِ، ⁸يُوجَدُ وَاحِدٌ وَلَا ثَانِي لَهُ، وَلَيْسَ لَهُ ابْنٌ وَلَا أَخٌ، وَلَا نِهَآيَةَ لِكُلِّ تَعَبِهِ، وَلَا تَسْبِيحٌ عَيْنُهُ مِنَ الْوَعَى. فَلِمَنْ أَنْعَبُ أَنَا وَأَحْرَمُ نَفْسِي الْخَيْرِ. هَذَا أَيْضًا بَاطِلٌ وَأَمْرٌ رَدِيءٌ هُوَ. ⁹إِنْتَانِ خَيْرٌ مِنْ وَاحِدٍ، لِأَنَّ لَهُمَا أَجْرَةً لِيَتَعَبِيهِمَا صَالِحَةً. ¹⁰لَآئِهِ إِنْ وَقَعَ، إِذَا أَخَذَهُمَا يُقِيمُهُ رَفِيقُهُ. وَوَيْلٌ لِمَنْ هُوَ وَحْدَهُ إِنْ وَقَعَ، إِذْ لَيْسَ ثَانٍ لِيُقِيمَهُ. ¹¹أَيْضًا إِنْ اضْطَجَعَ اثْنَانِ يَكُونُ لَهُمَا دِفْءٌ. أَمَّا الْوَاحِدُ فَكَيْفَ يَدْفَأُ؟ ¹²وَإِنْ غَلَبَ أَحَدٌ عَلَى الْوَاحِدِ يَقِفُ مُقَابِلَهُ الْإِنْتَانِ، وَالْخَيْطُ الْمَمْلُوءُ لَا يَنْقَطِعُ سَرِيعًا. ¹³وَلَدٌ قَلِيلٌ وَحَكِيمٌ خَيْرٌ مِنْ مَلِكٍ سَخِجٍ جَاهِلٍ، الَّذِي لَا يَعْرِفُ أَنْ يُحَدَّرَ بَعْدُ. ¹⁴لَآئِهِ مِنَ السَّجْنِ خَرَجَ إِلَى الْمُلْكِ، وَالْمَوْلُودُ مَلِكًا قَدْ يَفْتَقِرُ. ¹⁵رَأَيْتُ كُلَّ الْأَحْيَاءِ السَّائِرِينَ تَحْتَ الشَّمْسِ مَعَ الْوَلَدِ الثَّانِي الَّذِي يَقُومُ عَوَضًا عَنْهُ. ¹⁶لَا نِهَآيَةَ لِكُلِّ الشَّعْبِ، لِكُلِّ الَّذِينَ كَانَ أَمَامَهُمْ. أَيْضًا الْمَتَأَخَّرُونَ لَا يَعْرِضُونَ بِهِ. فَهَذَا أَيْضًا بَاطِلٌ وَقَبْضُ الرِّيحِ.

cometh to reign; whereas also he that is born in his kingdom becometh poor.¹⁵ I considered all the living which walk under the sun, with the second child that shall stand up in his stead.¹⁶ There is no end of all the people, even of all that have been before them: they also that come after shall not rejoice in him. Surely this also is vanity and vexation of spirit.