

¹لِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ زَمَانٌ، وَلِكُلِّ أَمْرٍ تَحْتَ السَّمَاوَاتِ
وَقْتُ² لِلْوِلَادَةِ وَقْتُ وَلِلْمَوْتِ وَقْتُ. لِلْغَرْسِ وَقْتُ وَلِقْلَعِ
الْمَعْرُوسِ وَقْتُ. لِلْقَيْلِ وَقْتُ وَلِلشِّقَاءِ وَقْتُ. لِلْهَدَمِ
وَقْتُ وَلِلْبِنَاءِ وَقْتُ. لِلْبَكَاءِ وَقْتُ وَلِلصَّخَرِ وَقْتُ. لِلتَّوْحِ
وَقْتُ وَلِلرَّفْصِ وَقْتُ. لِلتَّفْرِيقِ الْجَارَةِ وَقْتُ وَلِجَمْعِ
الْجَارَةِ وَقْتُ. لِلْمُعَاتَقَةِ وَقْتُ وَلِلانْفِصَالِ عَنِ الْمُعَاتَقَةِ
وَقْتُ. لِلْكَسْبِ وَقْتُ وَلِلخَسَارَةِ وَقْتُ. لِلصَّيَاةِ وَقْتُ
وَلِلطَّرْحِ وَقْتُ. لِلتَّمْزِيقِ وَقْتُ وَلِلتَّخْيِيطِ وَقْتُ. لِلشُّكُوتِ
وَقْتُ وَلِلتَّكَلُّمِ وَقْتُ. لِلْحُبِّ وَقْتُ وَلِلنُّعْصَةِ وَقْتُ. لِلحَرْبِ
وَقْتُ وَلِلصُّلْحِ وَقْتُ. فَأَيُّ مَنَفَعَةٍ لِمَنْ يَتَعَبُ مِمَّا يَتَعَبُ
بِهِ. ¹⁰قَدْ رَأَيْتُ الشَّعْلَ الَّذِي أُعْطَاهُ اللَّهُ بَنِي الْبَشَرِ
لِيَسْتَعْمِلُوا بِهِ. ¹¹صَنَعَ الْكُلَّ حَسَنًا فِي وَقْتِهِ، وَأَيْضًا جَعَلَ
الْأَبْيَظَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمُ، الَّتِي بَلَاهَا لَا بُدَّكَ الْإِنْسَانُ الْعَمَلِ
الَّذِي يَعْمَلُهُ اللَّهُ مِنَ الْبِدَايَةِ إِلَى الْهِتَابَةِ. ¹²عَرَفْتُ أَنَّهُ
لَيْسَ لَهُمْ خَيْرٌ إِلَّا أَنْ يَفْرَحُوا وَيَفْعَلُوا خَيْرًا فِي
حَيَاتِهِمْ. ¹³وَأَيْضًا أَنْ يَأْكُلَ كُلُّ إِنْسَانٍ وَيَتَشَرَّبَ وَيَبْرِي خَيْرًا
مِنْ كُلِّ تَعْيِيهِ، فَهُوَ عَطِيَّةُ اللَّهِ. ¹⁴قَدْ عَرَفْتُ أَنَّ كُلَّ مَا
يَعْمَلُهُ اللَّهُ أَنَّهُ يَكُونُ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ. لَا شَيْءَ يُرَآءُ عَلَيْهِ، وَلَا
شَيْءَ يُنْقَضُ مِنْهُ، وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ عَمَلُهُ حَتَّى يَخَافُوا أَمَامَهُ. ¹⁵مَا
كَانَ قِمَمِ الْقَدَمِ هُوَ. وَمَا يَكُونُ قِمَمِ الْقَدَمِ قَدْ كَانَ.
وَاللَّهُ يَطْلُبُ مَا قَدْ مَضَى. ¹⁶وَأَيْضًا رَأَيْتُ تَحْتَ الشَّمْسِ،
مَوْضِعَ الْحَقِّ هُنَاكَ الطُّلْمُ، وَمَوْضِعَ الْعَدْلِ هُنَاكَ
الْجَوْرُ. ¹⁷فَقُلْتُ فِي قَلْبِي، اللَّهُ يَذِيبُ الصِّدِّيقَ وَالشَّرِيرَ.
لَأَنَّ لِكُلِّ أَمْرٍ وَلِكُلِّ عَمَلٍ وَقْتًا هُنَاكَ. ¹⁸قُلْتُ فِي قَلْبِي،
مِنْ جِهَةِ أُمُورِ بَنِي الْبَشَرِ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَمْتَحِنُهُمْ لِيُرَبِّهَهُمْ أَنَّهُ
كَمَا الْبَهِيمَةِ هَكَذَا هُمْ. ¹⁹لَأَنَّ مَا يَخْدُثُ لِبَنِي الْبَشَرِ يَخْدُثُ
لِلْبَهِيمَةِ، وَخَادِيَّتُهُ وَاجِدَةٌ لَهُمْ. مَوْتُ هَذَا كَمَوْتِ ذَلِكَ،
وَنَسَمَةٌ وَاجِدَةٌ لِكُلِّ. فَلَيْسَ لِلْإِنْسَانِ مَرْبَةٌ عَلَى الْبَهِيمَةِ،
لَأَنَّ كِلَيْهِمَا بَاطِلٌ. ²⁰يَذْهَبُ كِلَاهُمَا إِلَى مَكَانٍ وَاحِدٍ. كَانَ
كِلاَهُمَا مِنَ التُّرَابِ، وَإِلَى التُّرَابِ يَعُودُ كِلَاهُمَا. ²¹مَنْ يَعْلَمُ
رُوحَ بَنِي الْبَشَرِ هَلْ هِيَ تَصْعَدُ إِلَى قُوَى، وَرُوحَ الْبَهِيمَةِ
هَلْ هِيَ تَنْزِلُ إِلَى أَسْفَلٍ، إِلَى الْأَرْضِ. ²²فَرَأَيْتُ أَنَّهُ لَا
شَيْءَ خَيْرٌ مِنْ أَنْ يَفْرَحَ الْإِنْسَانُ بِأَعْمَالِهِ، لَأَنَّ ذَلِكَ
نَصِيبُهُ. لَأَنَّهُ مَنْ يَأْتِي بِهِ لِيَرَى مَا سَيَكُونُ بَعْدَهُ.

¹To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: ²A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; ³A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; ⁴A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; ⁵A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; ⁶A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; ⁷A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; ⁸A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace. ⁹What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth? ¹⁰I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it. ¹¹He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end. ¹²I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life. ¹³And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God. ¹⁴I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him. ¹⁵That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past. ¹⁶And moreover I saw under the sun the place of judgment, that wickedness was there; and the place of

righteousness, that iniquity was there.¹⁷ I said in mine heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work.¹⁸ I said in mine heart concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts.¹⁹ For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity.²⁰ All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.²¹ Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?²² Wherefore I perceive that there is nothing better, than that a man should rejoice in his own works; for that is his portion: for who shall bring him to see what shall be after him?