

¹مَنْ كَالْحَكِيمِ، وَمَنْ يَفْهَمُ تَفْسِيرَ أَمْرِ. حِكْمَةُ الْإِنْسَانِ تُبَيِّرُ وَجْهَهُ، وَصَلَابَةُ وَجْهِهِ تَتَغَيَّرُ.² أَنَا أَقُولُ، أَحْقَطُ أَمْرَ الْمَلِكِ، وَذَاكَ يَسْتَبِ بِيَمِينِ اللَّهِ.³ لَا تَعْجَلْ إِلَى الذَّهَابِ مِنْ وَجْهِهِ. لَا تَقِفْ فِي أَمْرِ سَاقٍ، لِأَنَّهُ يَفْعَلُ كُلَّ مَا سَاءَ.⁴ حَيْثُ تَكُونُ كَلِمَةُ الْمَلِكِ فَهَتَاكَ سُلْطَانُ. وَمَنْ يَقُولُ لَهُ، مَاذَا تَفْعَلُ.⁵ حَافِظُ الْوَصِيَّةِ لَا يَسْغُرُ بِأَمْرِ سَاقٍ، وَقَلْبُ الْحَكِيمِ يَعْرِفُ الْوَقْتَ وَالْحُكْمَ.⁶ لِأَنَّ لِكُلِّ أَمْرٍ وَقْتًا وَحُكْمًا. لِأَنَّ شَرَّ الْإِنْسَانِ عَظِيمٌ عَلَيْهِ، لِأَنَّهُ لَا يَعْلَمُ مَا سَيَكُونُ. لِأَنَّهُ مَنْ يُخْبِرُهُ كَيْفَ يَكُونُ.⁸ لَيْسَ لِلْإِنْسَانِ سُلْطَانٌ عَلَى الرُّوحِ لِيُمْسِكَ الرُّوحَ، وَلَا سُلْطَانٌ عَلَى يَوْمِ الْمَوْتِ، وَلَا تَخْلِيهِ فِي الْحَرْبِ، وَلَا يُنَجِّي الشَّرُّ أَصْحَابَهُ.⁹ كُلُّ هَذَا رَأَيْتُهُ إِذْ وَجَّهْتُ قَلْبِي لِكُلِّ عَمَلٍ عَمِلْتُ تَحْتَ الشَّمْسِ وَفُتِمَا يَتَسَلَّطُ إِنْسَانٌ عَلَى إِنْسَانٍ لِيَصْرِرَ نَفْسِهِ.¹⁰ وَهَكَذَا رَأَيْتُ أَشْرَارًا يُذَقِّنُونَ وَضُمُوا، وَالَّذِينَ عَمِلُوا بِالْحَقِّ ذَهَبُوا مِنْ مَكَانِ الْقُدْسِ وَنُسُوا فِي الْمَدِينَةِ. هَذَا أَيْضًا بَاطِلٌ.¹¹ لِأَنَّ الْقَضَاءَ عَلَى الْعَمَلِ الرَّدِيءِ لَا يُجْرَى سَرِيعًا، فَلِذَلِكَ قَدِ امْتَلَأَ قَلْبِي بِنَيْي التَّبَسُّرِ فِيهِمْ لَعَلَّ الشَّرَّ.¹² الْخَاطِئُ وَإِنْ عَمِلَ شَرًّا مِثْلَ مَرَّةٍ وَطَالَتْ أَبَاةُ، إِلَّا أَنِّي أَعْلَمُ أَنَّهُ يَكُونُ خَيْرٌ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ يَخَافُونَ قُدَامَهُ.¹³ وَلَا يَكُونُ خَيْرٌ لِلشَّرِّيرِ، وَكَالطِّلِّ لَا يُطِيلُ أَبَاةُ لِأَنَّهُ لَا يَحْسَى قُدَامَ اللَّهِ.¹⁴ يُوْجَدُ بَاطِلٌ يُجْرَى عَلَى الْأَرْضِ، أَنْ يُوْجَدَ صِدِّيقُونَ يُصَيِّبُهُمْ مِثْلُ عَمَلِ الْأَشْرَارِ، وَيُوْجَدُ أَشْرَارٌ يُصَيِّبُهُمْ مِثْلُ عَمَلِ الصَّادِقِينَ. قُلْتُ، إِنَّ هَذَا أَيْضًا بَاطِلٌ.¹⁵ فَمَدَحْتُ الْهَرَجَ، لِأَنَّهُ لَيْسَ لِلْإِنْسَانِ خَيْرٌ تَحْتَ الشَّمْسِ إِلَّا أَنْ يَأْكَلَ وَيَشْرَبَ وَيَفْرَحَ، وَهَذَا يَبْقَى لَهُ فِي تَعْيِهِ مُدَّةَ أَيَّامِ حَيَاتِهِ الَّتِي يُعْطِيهِ اللَّهُ إِثَّاها تَحْتَ الشَّمْسِ.¹⁶ لَمَّا وَجَّهْتُ قَلْبِي لِأَعْرِفَ الْحِكْمَةَ، وَأَنْظُرَ الْعَمَلَ الَّذِي عَمِلَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ، وَأَنَّهُ تَهَارًا وَلَيْلًا لَا يَرَى النَّوْمَ يَعْنِيهِ،¹⁷ رَأَيْتُ كُلَّ عَمَلِ اللَّهِ أَنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَا يَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ يَجِدَ الْعَمَلَ الَّذِي عَمِلَ تَحْتَ الشَّمْسِ. مَهْمَا تَعَبَ الْإِنْسَانُ فِي الطَّلَبِ فَلَا يَجِدُهُ، وَالْحَكِيمُ أَيْضًا وَإِنْ قَالَ بِمَعْرِفَتِهِ لَا يَقْدِرُ أَنْ يَجِدَهُ.

¹Who is as the wise man? and who knoweth the interpretation of a thing? a man's wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed.²I counsel thee to keep the king's commandment, and that in regard of the oath of God.³Be not hasty to go out of his sight: stand not in an evil thing; for he doeth whatsoever pleaseth him.⁴Where the word of a king is, there is power: and who may say unto him, What doest thou? Whoso keepeth the commandment shall feel no evil thing: and a wise man's heart discerneth both time and judgment.⁶Because to every purpose there is time and judgment, therefore the misery of man is great upon him.⁷For he knoweth not that which shall be: for who can tell him when it shall be?⁸There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.⁹All this have I seen, and applied my heart unto every work that is done under the sun: there is a time wherein one man ruleth over another to his own hurt.¹⁰And so I saw the wicked buried, who had come and gone from the place of the holy, and they were forgotten in the city where they had so done: this is also vanity.¹¹Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.¹²Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him:¹³But it shall not be

well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God.¹⁴ There is a vanity which is done upon the earth; that there be just men , unto whom it happeneth according to the work of the wicked; again, there be wicked men , to whom it happeneth according to the work of the righteous: I said that this also is vanity.¹⁵ Then I commended mirth, because a man hath no better thing under the sun, than to eat, and to drink, and to be merry: for that shall abide with him of his labour the days of his life, which God giveth him under the sun.¹⁶ When I applied mine heart to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done upon the earth: (for also there is that neither day nor night seeth sleep with his eyes:)¹⁷ Then I beheld all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun: because though a man labour to seek it out, yet he shall not find it ; yea further; though a wise man think to know it , yet shall he not be able to find it .