

¹For all this I considered in my heart even to declare all this, that the righteous, and the wise, and their works, are in the hand of God: no man knoweth either love or hatred by all that is before them.²All things come alike to all: there is one event to the righteous, and to the wicked; to the good and to the clean, and to the unclean; to him that sacrificeth, and to him that sacrificeth not: as is the good, so is the sinner; and he that sweareth, as he that feareth an oath.³This is an evil among all things that are done under the sun, that there is one event unto all: yea, also the heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness is in their heart while they live, and after that they go to the dead.⁴For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope: for a living dog is better than a dead lion.⁵For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.⁶Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun.⁷Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works.⁸Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no ointment.⁹Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun.¹⁰Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor

¹لَا نَ هَذَا كُلُّهُ جَعَلْتُهُ فِي قَلْبِي، وَامْتَحَنْتُ هَذَا كُلَّهُ، أَنَّ الصَّادِقِينَ وَالْحُكَمَاءَ وَأَعْمَالَهُمْ فِي يَدِ اللَّهِ. الْإِنْسَانُ لَا يَعْلَمُ حُبًّا وَلَا بُغْضًا. الْكُلُّ أَمَامَهُمْ.²الْكُلُّ عَلَى مَا لِلْكُلِّ. خَارِئُهُ وَاجِدَةٌ لِلصَّادِقِ وَاللَّشَّارِ، لِلصَّالِحِ وَاللَّطَّاهِرِ وَاللَّجَسِ. لِلدَّايِحِ وَلِلَّذِي لَا يَذْبَحُ. كَالصَّالِحِ الْخَاطِئِ. الْخَالِفُ كَالَّذِي يَخَافُ الْخَلْفَ.³هَذَا أَسْرُّ كُلِّ مَا عُمِلَ تَحْتَ الشَّمْسِ، أَنَّ خَارِئَهُ وَاجِدَةٌ لِلْجَمِيعِ. وَأَيْضًا قَلْبُ بَنِي الْبَشَرِ مَلَأَن مِنَ الشَّرِّ، وَالْحَمَاقَةُ فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ وَهُمْ أَخْيَاءُ، وَبَعْدَ ذَلِكَ يَذْهَبُونَ إِلَى الْأَمْوَاتِ.⁴لَا تِلْكَ مَنْ يُسْتَنْسَى. لِكُلِّ الْأَخْيَاءِ يُوجَدُ رَجَاءٌ، فَإِنَّ الْكَلْبَ الْحَيَّ خَيْرٌ مِنَ الْأَسَدِ الْمَيِّتِ.⁵لَأَنَّ الْأَخْيَاءَ يَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّهُمْ سَيَمُوتُونَ، أَمَّا الْمَوْتَى فَلَا يَعْلَمُونَ شَيْئًا، وَلَيْسَ لَهُمْ أَجْرٌ بَعْدَ لَأَنَّ ذِكْرَهُمْ نُسِيَ.⁶وَمَحَبَّتُهُمْ وَبُغْضُهُمْ وَحَسَدُهُمْ هَلَكَتْ مِنْذُ زَمَانٍ، وَلَا تَصِيبُ لَهُمْ بَعْدَ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ فِي كُلِّ مَا عُمِلَ تَحْتَ الشَّمْسِ. إِذْهَبَ كُلُّ خُبْرِكَ يَفْرَحُ وَاشْرَبَ حَمْرِكَ يَقْلِبُ طَيِّبٌ، لَأَنَّ اللَّهَ مِنْذُ زَمَانٍ قَدْ رَضِيَ عَمَلِكَ.⁸لَتَكُنْ نِيَابُكُ فِي كُلِّ حِينٍ بَنِيَاءً، وَلَا تَغُورُ رَأْسَكَ الدُّهْنُ.⁹الْتَدَّ عَيْشًا مَعَ الْمَرْأَةِ الَّتِي أَحْبَبْتَهَا كُلَّ أَيَّامِ حَيَاةِ بَاطِلِكَ الَّتِي أَعْطَاكَ إِيَّاهَا تَحْتَ الشَّمْسِ، كُلَّ أَيَّامِ بَاطِلِكَ، لَأَنَّ ذَلِكَ تَصِيبُكَ فِي الْحَيَاةِ وَفِي تَعَبِكَ الَّذِي تَتْعَبُهُ تَحْتَ الشَّمْسِ.¹⁰كُلُّ مَا تَجِدُهُ يَذْكُ لَتَفْعَلَهُ قَافِعُهُ يَقُودُكَ، لِأَنَّهُ لَيْسَ مِنْ عَمَلٍ وَلَا اخْتِرَاعٍ وَلَا مَعْرِفَةٍ وَلَا حِكْمَةٍ فِي الْهَافِيَةِ الَّتِي أَنْتَ ذَاهِبٌ إِلَيْهَا.¹¹فَعُدْتُ وَرَأَيْتُ تَحْتَ الشَّمْسِ أَنَّ السَّعْيَ لَيْسَ لِلْخَفِيفِ، وَلَا الْحَرْبَ لِلْأَقْوِيَاءِ، وَلَا الْخُبْرَ لِلْحُكَمَاءِ، وَلَا الْغِنَى لِلْفُهَمَاءِ، وَلَا التَّعَمَّةَ لِلذَّوِي الْمَعْرِفَةِ، لِأَنَّهُ الْوَقْتُ وَالْعَرَضُ بِلَاقِبَانِهِمْ كَافَّةً.¹²لَأَنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ أَيْضًا لَا يَعْرِفُ وَقْتَهُ. كَالْأَسْمَاكِ الَّتِي تُؤَخَذُ بِشَبَكَةِ مُهْلِكَةٍ، وَكَالْعَصَافِيرِ الَّتِي تُؤَخَذُ بِالشَّرَكِ، كَذَلِكَ تُفْتَنُ بَنُو الْبَشَرِ فِي وَفْتٍ سَرٍّ إِذْ يَقَعُ عَلَيْهِمْ بَغْتَةً.¹³هَذِهِ الْحِكْمَةُ رَأَيْتُهَا أَيْضًا تَحْتَ الشَّمْسِ، وَهِيَ عَظِيمَةٌ عِنْدِي.¹⁴مَدِينَةٌ صَغِيرَةٌ فِيهَا أَنَاسٌ قَلِيلُونَ. فَجَاءَ عَلَيْهَا مَلِكٌ عَظِيمٌ وَخَاصَرَهَا وَبَتَى عَلَيْهَا أَبْرَاجًا عَظِيمَةً.¹⁵وَوُجِدَ فِيهَا رَجُلٌ مَسْكِينٌ حَكِيمٌ، فَتَجَّى هُوَ الْمَدِينَةَ بِحِكْمَتِهِ. وَمَا أَحَدٌ ذَكَرَ ذَلِكَ الرَّجُلَ الْمَسْكِينِ.¹⁶قُلْتُ، الْحِكْمَةُ خَيْرٌ مِنَ الْقُوَّةِ. أَمَّا حِكْمَةُ الْمَسْكِينِ فَمُجْتَزَّةٌ وَكَلَامُهُ لَا يُسْمَعُ.¹⁷كَلِمَاتُ الْحُكَمَاءِ تُسْمَعُ فِي الْهُدُوءِ أَكْثَرَ مِنْ صُرَاخِ الْمُتَسَلِّطِ بَيْنَ الْجُهَالِ.¹⁸الْحِكْمَةُ خَيْرٌ مِنْ أَدَوَاتِ الْحَرْبِ. أَمَّا خَاطِئُ

knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.¹¹ I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all.¹² For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them.¹³ This wisdom have I seen also under the sun, and it seemed great unto me:¹⁴ There was a little city, and few men within it; and there came a great king against it, and besieged it, and built great bulwarks against it:¹⁵ Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city; yet no man remembered that same poor man.¹⁶ Then said I, Wisdom is better than strength: nevertheless the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard.¹⁷ The words of wise men are heard in quiet more than the cry of him that ruleth among fools.¹⁸ Wisdom is better than weapons of war: but one sinner destroyeth much good.