

¹The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.²Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity.³What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?⁴One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever.⁵The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose.⁶The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits.⁷All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again.⁸All things are full of labour; man cannot utter it : the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.⁹The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.¹⁰Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us.¹¹There is no remembrance of former things ; neither shall there be any remembrance of things that are to come with those that shall come after.¹²I the Preacher was king over Israel in Jerusalem.¹³And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith.¹⁴I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit.¹⁵That which is crooked cannot be made straight: and that

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which is wanting cannot be numbered.¹⁶ I communed with mine own heart, saying, Lo, I am come to great estate, and have gotten more wisdom than all they that have been before me in Jerusalem: yea, my heart had great experience of wisdom and knowledge.¹⁷ And I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly: I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit.¹⁸ For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow.