

¹كَلَامَ الْجَامِعَةِ ابْنِ دَاوُدَ الْمَلِكِ فِي أُورُشَلِيمَ، ²بَاطِلُ
الْأَبَاطِيلِ قَالَ الْجَامِعَةُ. بَاطِلُ الْأَبَاطِيلِ الْكُلُّ بَاطِلٌ. ³مَا
الْقَائِدَةُ لِلْإِنْسَانِ مِنْ كُلِّ تَعْيِهِ الَّذِي يَتَعْبُهُ تَحْتَ
السَّمْسِ. ⁴دَوْرٌ يَمْضِي وَدَوْرٌ يَجِيءُ، وَالْأَرْضُ قَائِمَةٌ إِلَى
الْأَبَدِ. ⁵وَالسَّمْسُ تُشْرِقُ، وَالسَّمْسُ تَغْرُبُ، وَتُسْرِعُ إِلَى
مَوْضِعِهَا حَيْثُ تُشْرِقُ. ⁶الرَّيْحُ تَذْهَبُ إِلَى الْجَنُوبِ وَتَدُورُ
إِلَى الشِّمَالِ. تَذْهَبُ دَائِرَةً دَوْرَانَا، وَإِلَى مَذَارِئِهَا تَرْجِعُ
الرَّيْحُ. ⁷كُلُّ الْأَنْهَارِ تَجْرِي إِلَى الْبَحْرِ وَالتَّجَرُّ لَيْسَ يَمْلَأَنَّ.
إِلَى الْمَكَانِ الَّذِي جَرَتْ مِنْهُ الْأَنْهَارُ إِلَى هُنَاكَ تَذْهَبُ
رَاجِعَةً. ⁸كُلُّ الْكَلَامِ يَفْضُرُ. لَا يَسْتَطِيعُ الْإِنْسَانُ أَنْ يُخَيَّرَ
بِالْكُلِّ. الْعَيْنُ لَا تَشْبَعُ مِنَ النَّظَرِ، وَالْأَذُنُ لَا تَمْتَلِئُ مِنَ
السَّمْعِ. مَا كَانَ فَهُوَ مَا يَكُونُ، وَالَّذِي صُنِعَ فَهُوَ الَّذِي
يُصْنَعُ. فَلَيْسَ تَحْتَ السَّمْسِ جَدِيدٌ. ¹⁰إِنْ وَجَدَ شَيْءٌ يَقَالُ
عَنْهُ، انْظُرْ. هَذَا جَدِيدٌ. فَهُوَ مُنْذُ رَمَانٍ كَانَ فِي الدُّهُورِ
الَّتِي كَانَتْ قَبْلَنَا. لَيْسَ ذِكْرٌ لِلْأَوَّلِينَ. وَالْآخِرُونَ أَيْضاً
الَّذِينَ سَيَكُونُونَ لَا يَكُونُ لَهُمْ ذِكْرٌ عِنْدَ الَّذِينَ يَكُونُونَ
بَعْدَهُمْ. ¹²أَنَا الْجَامِعَةُ كُنْتُ مَلِكاً عَلَى إِسْرَائِيلَ فِي
أُورُشَلِيمَ. ¹³وَوَجَّهْتُ قَلْبِي لِلسُّؤَالِ وَالتَّفَنُّيْشِ بِالْحِكْمَةِ
عَنْ كُلِّ مَا عُمِلَ تَحْتَ السَّمَاوَاتِ. هُوَ عَتَاءٌ رَدِيءٌ جَعَلَهُ
اللَّهُ لِيَتِي التَّبَسُّرَ لِيَعْنُوا فِيهِ. ¹⁴رَأَيْتُ كُلَّ الْأَعْمَالِ الَّتِي
عُمِلَتْ تَحْتَ السَّمْسِ فَإِذَا الْكُلُّ بَاطِلٌ وَقَبْضُ
الرَّيْحِ. ¹⁵الْأَعْوَجُ لَا يُمَكِّنُ أَنْ يَقُومَ، وَالتَّقْصُ لَا يُمَكِّنُ أَنْ
يُجْتَرَّ. ¹⁶أَنَا تَاجِبْتُ قَلْبِي قَائِلاً، هَا أَنَا قَدْ عَظُمْتُ وَازْدَدْتُ
حِكْمَةً أَكْثَرَ مِنْ كُلِّ مَنْ كَانَ قَبْلِي عَلَى أُورُشَلِيمَ، وَقَدْ
رَأَى قَلْبِي كَثِيراً مِنَ الْحِكْمَةِ وَالْمَعْرِفَةِ. ¹⁷وَوَجَّهْتُ قَلْبِي
لِمَعْرِفَةِ الْحِكْمَةِ وَلِمَعْرِفَةِ الْحَقَاقَةِ وَالْجَهْلِ. فَعَرَفْتُ أَنَّ
هَذَا أَيْضاً قَبْضُ الرَّيْحِ. ¹⁸لَآنَ فِي كَثَرَةِ الْحِكْمَةِ كَثَرَةُ الْعَمَلِ،
وَالَّذِي يَزِيدُ عِلْماً يَزِيدُ حُزْناً.

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.