

I got singers, both men and women, and many concubines,^c man's delight.

9 So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem; also my wisdom remained with me.

10 And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them; I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil.

11 Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had spent in doing it, and behold, all was in vain and a striving after wind, and there is nothing to be gained.

12 So I turned wise and mad, and I perceived that the man doings are all of vanity.

13 Then I saw myself, as light exeth me, as a fool walks in this world, and he has deceived them.

15 Turning I said, "What befell me, and why have I become thus? It is all vanity, and as of the fool's remembrance, and it will be forgotten."

16 How I like the fool! I have seen the cause what is done, and it is grievous to me; it is a striving after vanity.

18 I hated all that I had toiled under the sun, for I must leave it to the one who comes after me; whether he will be a fool? Yet he will be a fool, and he will do nothing beautiful in it.

19 What gain has the worker from his toil? I have seen the business that God has given to the sons of men, to be busy with. He has made every-thing beautiful in its time; also he has put eternity into man's mind, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

20 So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun, because sometimes a man who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by a man who did not toil for it. This also is vanity.

^c The meaning of the Hebrew word is uncertain.

and a great evil.²² What has a man from all the toil and strain with which he toils beneath the sun? ²³ For all his days are full of pain, and his work is a vexation; even in the night his mind does not rest. This also is vanity.

24 There is nothing better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God; ²⁵ for apart from him ^a who can have enjoyment?

26 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

² a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

³ a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

⁵ a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

⁷ a time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

⁹ What gain has the worker from his toil?

10 I have seen the business that God has given to the sons of men, to be busy with. He has made every-thing beautiful in its time; also he has put eternity into man's mind, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

12 I know that there is nothing

^a Gk Syr: Heb *apart from me*