

ECCLESIASTES

CHAPTER 1

The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king of Israel in Jerusalem.

²Vanity of vanities, said the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity. ³What profit *is there* unto a man in all his labour which he taketh under the sun? ⁴A generation passeth away, and a generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever. ⁵The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and draweth toward to his place; ⁶when he ariseth there, he proceedeth toward the south, and goeth about toward the north. The wind goeth round and round, and the wind returneth again unto his circuits. ⁷All the torrents run into the sea; and 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 shall not be satisfied with seeing, nor the ear with hearing. ⁹What is that which hath been? the very thing that shall be: and what is that which is done? the very thing which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun. ¹⁰*Who is he* that shall speak and say, Behold, this is new? it hath already been in the ages which were before us. ¹¹There is no memorial to the first things; neither to the things that have been last shall their memorial be with them that shall be at the last time.

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: for an evil trouble hath God given to the sons of men to be troubled therewith. ¹⁴I beheld all the works that were done under the sun; and, behold, all were vanity and waywardness of spirit. ¹⁵That which is crooked cannot be made straight: and that which is wanting cannot be numbered. ¹⁶I communed with mine own heart, saying, Lo, I am increased, and have gotten wisdom beyond all they that have been before me in Jerusalem: I gave my heart also to know wisdom and knowledge. ¹⁷And my heart knew much: wisdom, and knowledge, parables, and understanding: I perceived that this also is waywardness of spirit. ¹⁸For in the abundance of wisdom is abundance of knowledge: and he that increaseth knowledge will increase sorrow.

CHAPTER 2

I said in mine heart, Come now, I will prove thee with mirth, and behold thou good: and, behold, this also is vanity. ²I said of laughter, Madness: and of mirth, Why doest thou this? ³And I looked in mine heart whether to draw my flesh unto wine, (yet mine heart guided me in wisdom,) and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what kind of thing is good to the sons of men, which they should do under the sun all the days of their life. ⁴I made

my works great; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards. ⁵I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted in them every fruit tree. ⁶I made me pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees. ⁷I got me servants and maidens, and servants were born to me in the house; also I had great possessions of flocks and herds beyond all that were in Jerusalem before me. ⁸Moreover I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasures of kings and of the provinces: I gat me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, a cupbearer and women cupbearers. ⁹So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom was established unto me. ¹⁰And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from all my mirth; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour. ¹¹And I looked on all my works that my hands had wrought, and on my labour that I had laboured to perform: and, behold, all was vanity and waywardness of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun. ¹²Then I looked to see wisdom, and madness, and folly: for who is the man that will follow after counsel in all things wherein he employeth it? ¹³Then I saw that wisdom excelleth folly, as far as light excelleth darkness. ¹⁴The wise man's eyes are in his head; but the fool walketh in darkness: and I myself perceived that one event shall happen to them all. ¹⁵Then said I in my heart, As it happeneth even to the fool, so shall it happen to me, even to me; and to what purpose have I gained wisdom? I said moreover in my heart, This also is vanity, because the fool speaketh of his abundance. ¹⁶For there is no remembrance of the wise man with the fool for ever; seeing that now in the days to come all things are forgotten; and how shall the wise man die with the fool? ¹⁷Therefore I hated life; because the work that is wrought under the sun was evil toward me: for all is vanity and waywardness of spirit. ¹⁸Yea, I hated all my labour which I had taken under the sun: because I should leave it unto the man that shall come after me. ¹⁹And who knoweth whether he shall be a wise man or a fool, and whether he shall have power over all my labour wherein I have laboured, and wherein I have waxed wise under the sun? This also is vanity. ²⁰Therefore I went about to dismiss from my heart all my labour wherein I laboured under the sun. ²¹For there is a man whose labour is in wisdom, and in knowledge, and in fortitude; yet to one that hath not laboured therein shall this man give his portion. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²²For what happeneth unto a man in all his labour, and in the purpose of his heart wherein he laboreth under the sun? ²³For all his days are sorrows, and vexation of spirit is his; yea, his heart taketh not rest in the night. This also is vanity. ²⁴A man hath nothing good to eat and to drink, and to shew his soul as good in his labour. ²⁵For who shall eat, or who shall drink, without Him? ²⁶For He hath given to the man that is good in His sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner hath He given trouble, to gather, and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God; for this also is vanity and waywardness of spirit.

CHAPTER 3

To all things there is a time, and a season to every matter under heaven. ²A time of birth, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; ³a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to pull down, and a time to build up; ⁴a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to lament, and a time to dance; ⁵a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; ⁶a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; ⁷a time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; ⁸a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace. ⁹What profit hath he that worketh in those things wherein he laboureth? ¹⁰I have seen all the trouble, which God hath given to the sons of men wherewith to be troubled. ¹¹All the things which He hath made are beautiful in His time: also He hath set the whole age in their heart, that man might not find out the work which God hath made from the beginning even to the end. ¹²I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life. ¹³Also every man that should eat and drink, and see good in his labour, *it* is a gift of God. ¹⁴I know that, whatsoever things God hath done, they shall be for ever: it is impossible to add to it, and it is impossible to take away from it: and God hath done it, that men may fear before Him. ¹⁵That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God shall require that which is past.

¹⁶And moreover I saw under the sun the place of judgment, there was the ungodly one; and the place of righteousness, there was the godly one. ¹⁷And I said in mine heart, God shall judge the righteous and the ungodly: for there is a time there for every action and for every work. ¹⁸I said in mine heart concerning the speech of the sons of men, God will judge them, and that to shew that they are beasts. ¹⁹Also to them is the event of the sons of man, and the event of the brute; one event befalleth them: as is the death of the one, so is the death of the other; and there is one breath to all: and what hath the man more than the brute? Nothing: for all is vanity. ²⁰All go unto one place; all were formed of the dust, and all shall turn to dust again. ²¹And who hath seen the spirit of the son of man, whether it goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast, whether it goeth downward to the earth? ²²And I perceived that there was no good, but that wherein a man shall rejoice in his own works; for that is his portion: for who shall bring him to see any thing of that which shall be after him?

CHAPTER 4

So I returned, and considered all the oppressions that were done under the sun: and behold the tear of the oppressed, and they had no comforter; and on the side of them that oppressed them there was power; but they had no comforter: ²and I praised all the dead that had already died more

than the living, as many as are alive till now. ³Better also is he than both they, which hath not yet been, who hath not seen all the evil work that is done under the sun.

⁴And I saw all travail, and all the manliness of work, that this is a man's envy of his neighbour. This is also vanity and waywardness of spirit. ⁵The fool foldeth his hands together, and eateth his own flesh. ⁶Better is an handful of rest, than two handfuls of trouble and waywardness of spirit.

⁷And I returned, and I saw vanity under the sun. ⁸There is one alone, and there is not a second; yea, he hath neither son nor brother: yet is there no end to all his labour; neither is his eye satisfied with riches; and for whom do I labour, and bereave my soul of good? This is also vanity, and an evil distraction. ⁹Two are better than one, seeing they have a good reward for their labour. ¹⁰For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth, and there is not a second to lift him up. ¹¹Again, if two lie together, they also get heat; but how shall one be warmed alone? ¹²And if one prevail against him, the two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord shall not be quickly broken.

¹³Better is a poor and a wise child than an old and foolish king, who knoweth no more how to take heed. ¹⁴For out of the house of the prisoners shall he come forth to reign, for indeed even in his kingdom he was born poor. ¹⁵I considered all the living which walked under the sun, with the second youth that shall stand up in his stead. ¹⁶There is no end to all the people, even to all that have been before them: they also that come after shall not rejoice in him: for this also is vanity and waywardness of spirit.

¹⁷Keep thy foot whensoever thou goest to the house of God, and art near to hear: let thy sacrifice be above the gift of fools: for they know not how to do evil.

CHAPTER 5

Be not hasty with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few. ²For a dream cometh through the multitude of distractions, and a fool's voice with a multitude of words. ³Whensoever thou shalt vow a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for He hath no pleasure in fools. ⁴Better it is that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. ⁵Suffer not thy mouth to lead thy flesh to sin; neither say in the presence of God, It was in ignorance: lest God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the works of thine hands. ⁶For in a multitude of dreams are both vanities and many words: but fear thou God.

⁷If thou see the oppression of the poor, and the wresting of judgment and of justice in a province, marvel not at the matter: for *there be* an high one to watch over him that is high, and *there be* high ones over them. ⁸Moreover the abundance of the earth is for every one: *even* a king *dependeth* upon the tilled field.

⁹He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; and who hath loved gain, in the abundance thereof? this also is vanity. ¹⁰In a multitude of good they are increased that eat it: and what virtue hath the owner, saving the priority of beholding it with his eyes? ¹¹The sleep of a servant is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but to one that is satiated with riches, there is no suffering him to sleep. ¹²There is an infirmity which I have seen under the sun, namely, riches kept for the owner thereof to his hurt. ¹³And those riches shall perish in an evil distraction: and he begetteth a son, and there is nothing in his hand. ¹⁴As he came forth naked of his mother's womb, he shall return back as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour, that it may go *with him* in his hand. ¹⁵And this also is a sore evil: for as he came, so also shall he return: and what profit is his, for which he laboureth for the wind? ¹⁶Yea, all his days are in darkness, and in mourning, and infirmity, and wrath.

¹⁷Behold, I have seen good; that it is a fine thing: to eat and to drink, and to see good in all his labour wherein he laboureth under the sun the number of the days of his life, which God hath given him: for it is his portion. ¹⁸Yea, and every man to whom God hath given riches and possessions, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to receive his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God. ¹⁹For he shall not much remember the days of his life; because God troubleth him in the mirth of his heart

CHAPTER 6

There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it is abundant upon men: ²a man to whom God shall give riches, and substance, and honour, and he wanteth nothing for his soul of all things that he shall desire; yet God shall not give him authority to eat of it, for a stranger shall eat it: this is vanity, and an evil infirmity. ³If a man beget an hundred children, and live many years, yea, however abundant the days of his years shall be; and his soul be not satisfied with good, and also he have no burial; I said, An untimely birth is better than he. ⁴For he came in vanity, and departeth in darkness, and his name shall be covered in darkness. ⁵Moreover he hath not seen the sun, nor known rest: there is *no more rest* to this one than another. ⁶Yea, if he hath lived to the return of a thousand years, yet hath he seen no good: do not all go to one place?

⁷All the labour of a man is for his mouth, and yet the appetite is not satisfied. ⁸For what advantage hath the wise man over the fool, since even the poor knoweth how to walk before life? ⁹Better is the sight of the eyes than that the wandering in spirit: this also is vanity, and waywardness of spirit.

¹⁰If any thing hath been, the name thereof hath already been called: and it is known what man is; neither can he contend with Him that is stronger than he. ¹¹Seeing there be many things that increase vanity; what advantage hath a man? ¹²For who knoweth what is good for a man in his life,

all the number of the days of his life of vanity? and he hath spent them as a shadow; for who shall tell a man what shall be after him under the sun?

CHAPTER 7

A good name is better than good oil; and the day of death than the day of birth. ²It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: since this is the end of every man; and the living man will give good *warning* to his heart. ³Anger is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart will be made better. ⁴The heart of the wise is in the house; and the heart of fools is in the house of mirth. ⁵It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools. ⁶As the sound of thorns under a caldron, so is the laughter of fools: this also is vanity. ⁷For extortion maketh a wise man mad, and destroyeth the courage of his heart. ⁸Better is the end of things than the beginning thereof: the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit. ⁹Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger will rest in the bosom of fools. ¹⁰Say not thou, What hath happened, that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not inquire in wisdom concerning this. ¹¹Wisdom is good with an inheritance: and *by it there* is abundance to them that see the sun. ¹²For wisdom in the shadow thereof is as the shadow of silver: and the advantage of the knowledge of wisdom will give life to him that hath it. ¹³Consider the works of God: for who shall be able to make straight him that God hath made crooked? ¹⁴In the day of prosperity be prosperous, but in the day of adversity consider: consider, I say, God also hath made the one to agree with the other concerning speech, to the end that man should find nothing after him.

¹⁵All things have I seen in the days of my vanity: there is a just man that perisheth in his righteousness, and there is an ungodly man that remaineth in his wickedness. ¹⁶Be not very righteous; neither be thou over wise: lest thou be confounded. ¹⁷Be not very wicked, and be not stubborn: lest thou die before thy time. ¹⁸It is well for thee to hold fast by this; also from this defile not thine hand: for unto them that fear God all things shall come forth well.

¹⁹Wisdom shall help the wise man more than ten mighty men which are in the city. ²⁰For there is not a just man upon the earth, who will do good, and not sin. ²¹Also take no heed unto all the words which ungodly men shall speak; lest thou hear thy servant curse thee. ²²For oftentimes shall he trespass against thee, and many times shall he afflict thine heart; for thus also hast thou cursed others.

²³All these things have I proved in wisdom: I said, I will be wise; but it was far from me. ²⁴*That which is far beyond what was, and a great deep, who shall find it out?* ²⁵I and mine heart went about to know, and to examine and seek out wisdom, and the account *of things*, and to know the folly and trouble and madness of the ungodly man. ²⁶And I find her, and I will pronounce more bitter than death the woman which is a snare, and her heart nets, and a

band in her hands: whose is good in the sight of God shall be delivered from her; but the sinner shall be caught by her. ²⁷Behold, this have I found, said the Preacher, seeking by one at a time to find out the account, ²⁸which my soul sought after, but I found not: for I have found one man of a thousand; but a woman in all these have I not found. ²⁹But, lo, this have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.

CHAPTER 8

Who knoweth the wise *man*? and who knoweth the interpretation of a saying? A man's wisdom will make his face to shine; but a man without shame in his face shall be hated. ²Keep the king's commandment, and that because of the word of the oath of God. ³Be not hasty; thou shalt go forth out of his sight: stand not in an evil thing; for he will do whatsoever he shall please, ⁴even as a king that hath power: and who shall say unto him, What doest thou? ⁵Whoso keepeth the commandment shall know no evil thing: and the heart of the wise knoweth the time of judgment. ⁶Because to every thing there is time and judgment; for the knowledge of man is great to him. ⁷For there is no man that knoweth that which shall be: for who shall tell him how it shall be? ⁸There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither is there power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in the day of battle; neither shall ungodliness preserve them that are given to it. ⁹So all this have I seen, and applied my heart unto every work that is done under the sun; all the things wherein man hath power over man to afflict him. ¹⁰And then saw I all ungodly carried into the tombs, and out of the holy place: and they departed, and were praised in the city, because they had done this: this also is vanity. ¹¹Because there is no contradiction made on the part of them that do evil quickly; therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. ¹²He that hath sinned hath done evil from that time, and from long beforehand: nevertheless I know that it is well with them that fear God, that they may fear before Him: ¹³but it shall not be well with the ungodly, and he shall not prolong his days, which are as a shadow; seeing that he feareth not before God. ¹⁴There is a vanity which is done upon the earth; that there be just men, unto whom it happeneth according to the doing of the ungodly; and there be ungodly men, unto whom it happeneth according to the doing of the righteous: I said, This also is vanity. ¹⁵Then I commended mirth, because there is nothing better for a man under the sun, but to eat, and to drink, and to be merry: and this shall attend him in his labour all the days of his life, which God hath given him under the sun.

¹⁶Whereupon I set mine heart to know wisdom, and to see the distraction that was done upon the earth: (for there is that neither day nor night seeth sleep with his eyes:) ¹⁷and I beheld all the works of God, that a man shall not be able to find out the work that is done under the sun: whatsoever things a man shall endeavour to seek, howsoever a man may

labour to seek it out, yet he shall not find it; yea, how much soever a wise man may say that he knoweth, he shall not be able to find it.

CHAPTER 9

For all this I gave unto mine heart, and mine heart hath seen all this: how that the righteous, and the wise, and their works, are in the hand of God: yea, there is no man that knoweth either love or hatred, though all are before their face. ²Vanity is in all *things*: there is one event to the righteous, and to the wicked; to the good, and to the bad; to the pure, and to the impure; both to him that sacrificeth, and to him that sacrificeth not: as is the good, so is the sinner; as is the swearer, even so is he that feareth an oath. ³There is this evil in all that is done under the sun, that there is one event unto all: yea, the heart of the sons of men is filled with evil, and madness is in their heart during their life, and after that they go to the dead. ⁴For who is he that hath fellowship with the living? there is hope of him: for a living dog is better than a dead lion. ⁵For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know nothing, and there is no more any reward to them; for the memory of them is forgotten. ⁶Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; yea, there is no portion for them any more for ever in all that is done under heaven.

⁷Go, eat thy bread with mirth, and drink thy wine with a joyful heart; for now hath God favourably accepted thy works. ⁸Let thy garments be always white; and let not oil be wanting on thy head. ⁹And see life with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which are given thee under the sun: for that is thy portion in thy life, and in thy labour wherein thou labourest under the sun. ¹⁰Whatsoever thine hand shall find to do, do as thy power is; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in Hades whither thou goest.

¹¹I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of knowledge; for time and chance will happen to them all. ¹²For surely man also knoweth not his time: as fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as birds that are caught in a snare; even so are the sons of men snared at an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them.

¹³This also I saw *to be* wisdom under the sun, and it is great before me: ¹⁴*there were* a little city, and few men within it; and there come against it a great king, and compass it about, and build great mounds against it: ¹⁵and find in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom save the city: yet no man would remember that same poor man. ¹⁶Then said I, Wisdom is better than power: nevertheless the poor man's wisdom is set at nought, and his words are not heard. ¹⁷The words of the wise are heard in quiet more than the cry of them that rule in folly. ¹⁸Wisdom is better than weapons of war: but one sinner destroyeth much good.

CHAPTER 10

Pestilent flies shall corrupt a preparation of sweet ointment: and a little wisdom is more precious than great glory of folly. ²A wise man's heart is at his right hand; but a fool's heart at his left. ³Yea also, whensoever a fool walketh by the way, his heart shall fail him, and all that he shall think of is folly. ⁴If the spirit of the ruler rise up against thee, leave not thy place; for soothing will put an end to great offences. ⁵There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, wherein an error hath proceeded from the ruler. ⁶The fool is set in very high places, while rich men sit in low place. ⁷I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking as servants upon the earth. ⁸He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it; and whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite *him*. ⁹Whoso removeth stones shall be troubled thereby; he that cleaveth wood shall be endangered thereby. ¹⁰If the axe head fall off, then the man troubleth his countenance, and must put to no more strength: and skilfulness is of no advantage to a man. ¹¹If a serpent bite when there is no *charmer's* whisper, then there is no advantage to the charmer. ¹²The words of a wise mouth are gracious; but the lips of a fool will swallow up himself. ¹³The beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness: and the end of his talk is mischievous madness. ¹⁴A fool moreover multiplieth words: a man knoweth not what hath been, nor what shall be: who shall tell him what shall come after him? ¹⁵The labour of fools shall afflict them, who knoweth not how to go to the city. ¹⁶Woe to thee, O city, whose king is young, and thy princes eat in the morning! ¹⁷Blessed art thou, O land, whose king is a son of nobles, and whose princes shall eat in due season, for strength, and shall not be ashamed. ¹⁸By slothful neglect a building shall be brought low; and through the idleness of the hands the house shall fall to pieces. ¹⁹Men prepare bread for laughter, and wine and oil, that the living may rejoice: but to money all things shall humbly yield obedience. ²⁰Curse not the king, even in thy conscience; and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber: for a bird of the air shall carry thy voice, and that which hath wings shall report thy speech.

CHAPTER 11

Send forth thy bread upon the face of the water: for thou shalt find it after many days. ²Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth. ³If the clouds be filled with rain, they pour it out upon the earth: and if a tree fall toward the south, or if it fall toward the north, in the place where the tree shall fall, there it shall be. ⁴He that observeth the wind soweth not; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap. ⁵Among whom none knoweth what is the way of the wind: as the bones *are hid* in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou shalt not know the works of God, all things whatsoever He shall do. ⁶In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening let not thine hand be slack: for thou knowest not what sort shall prosper, whether this or that, or whether they both shall

be alike good. ⁷Moreover the light is sweet, and it is good for the eyes to see the sun. ⁸For even if a man live many years, and rejoice in them all; yet let him remember the days of darkness; for they shall be many. All that cometh is vanity.

⁹Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart blameless, but not in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment. ¹⁰Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for youth and folly are vanity.

CHAPTER 12

And remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth, before the days of evil come, and the years overtake thee wherein thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them; ²while the sun and light be not darkened, nor the moon and the stars; nor the clouds return after the rain: ³in the day wherein the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the mighty men shall be bowed down, and the grinding cease because they are become few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened; ⁴and they shall shut the doors in the market place, because of the weakness of the voice of her that grindeth; and he shall rise up at the voice of the sparrow, and all the daughters of song shall be brought low; ⁵and they shall look up, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall blossom, and the locust shall increase, and the caper shall be scattered: because man is gone to his everlasting home, and the mourners are gone about the market: ⁶before the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel run down to the cistern; ⁷the dust also *shall* return to the earth as it was: and the spirit *shall* return unto God that gave it. ⁸Vanity of vanities, said the Preacher; all is vanity.

⁹And because the Preacher was wise above others, so he taught man excellent knowledge; and the ear will trace out the parables. ¹⁰The Preacher diligently sought to find out acceptable words, and a correct writing, *even* words of truth.

¹¹The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails firmly fastened, which are given from one shepherd by agreement. ¹²And moreover, by them, my son, guard thyself: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

¹³Hear the end of the matter, the sum: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole man. ¹⁴For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every thing that hath been overlooked, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil.