

# Ecclesiastes 1

JPS [\[Online\]](#)

## Everything Is Futile

**1**THE WORDS OF the Koheleth, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

**2**Vanity of vanities, saith Koheleth; Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.

**3**What profit hath man of all his labour Wherein he laboureth under the sun?

**4**One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh; And the earth abideth for ever.

**5**The sun also ariseth, And the sun goeth down, And hasteth to his place where he ariseth.

**6**The wind goeth toward the south, And turneth about unto the north; It turneth about continually in its circuit, And the wind returneth again to its circuits.

**7**All the rivers run into the sea, Yet the sea is not full; Unto the place whither the rivers go, Thither they go again.

**8**All things toil to weariness; Man cannot utter it, The eye is not satisfied with seeing, Nor the ear filled with hearing.

**9**That which hath been is that which shall be, And that which hath been done is that which shall be done; And there is nothing new under the sun.

**10**Is there a thing whereof it is said: 'See, this is new'?—it hath been already, in the ages which were before us.

**11**There is no remembrance of them of former times; neither shall there be any remembrance of them of latter times that are to come, among those that shall come after.

## With Wisdom Comes Sorrow

**12**I Koheleth have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. **13**And I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven; it is a sore task that God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised therewith. **14**I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind. **15**That which is crooked cannot be made straight; And that which is wanting cannot be numbered.

**16**I spoke with my own heart, saying: 'Lo, I have gotten great wisdom, more also than all that were before me over Jerusalem'; yea, my heart hath had great experience of wisdom and knowledge. **17**And I applied my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly—I perceived that this also was a striving after wind. **18**For in much wisdom is much vexation; And he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow.