

¹² I, the Preacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ And I set my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all that is done under heaven; this burdensome task God has given to the sons of man, by which they may be ^[e]exercised. ¹⁴ I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and indeed, all *is* vanity and grasping for the wind.

¹⁵ *What is* crooked cannot be made straight, and what is lacking cannot be numbered.

¹⁶ I communed with my heart, saying, “Look, I have attained greatness, and have gained more wisdom than all who were before me in Jerusalem. My heart has ^[f]understood great wisdom and knowledge.”

¹⁷ And I set my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is grasping for the wind.

¹⁸ For in much wisdom *is* much grief, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.

Footnotes:

- a. [Ecclesiastes 1:2](#) Or *Absurdity, Frustration, Futility, Nonsense*; and so throughout the book
- b. [Ecclesiastes 1:3](#) *labors*
- c. [Ecclesiastes 1:5](#) Is eager for, lit. *panting*
- d. [Ecclesiastes 1:8](#) *wearisome*
- e. [Ecclesiastes 1:13](#) Or *afflicted*
- f. [Ecclesiastes 1:16](#) Lit. *seen*