

All is Vanity:

There is a deep yearning in people to find meaning or satisfaction in their lives. It is written in Ecclesiastes that everything in life is vanity: *The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity. What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun? One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever.* Ecclesiastes 1:1-4.

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, the definition of “vanity” is: 1) inflated pride in oneself, or 2) of something that is vain, empty, or valueless. The book of Ecclesiastes, which is attributed to King Solomon, the son of David, teaches that the life of man is only vanity. Either of the two definitions for “vanity” as given in the dictionary are associated with what is written in Ecclesiastes. Man has an inflated pride in himself and his accomplishments, which diminishes his consideration of God, who is the Creator of all things. Everything man does is empty and valueless in comparison to the works of God, and the duty of man to worship God.

In regard to the wisdom of man, and all that he has accomplished, the writer of Ecclesiastes compares this to God, and finds that it is all vanity. Whereas everything of man is temporal, everything of God is eternal: *I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.* Ecclesiastes 3:14. The works of God can never be understood by man, no matter how hard he tries: *Then I beheld all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun: because though a man labour to seek it out, yet he shall not find it; yea further; though a wise man think to know it, yet shall he not be able to find it.* Ecclesiastes 8:17.

Although the two definitions for vanity that have been noted can be perceived as being related to what is written in Ecclesiastes, the Hebrew word that is used in this book of the Bible for “vanity” has the meaning of “vapor,” or “breath.” In other words, everything in the life of man, and, indeed, life itself, is fleeting, and like a vapor. Nothing that man accomplishes will endure, as opposed to God, and His works, that endure forever.

At the time Ecclesiastes was written, as it is now in the secular world, it was commonly believed that life ends at death. In the view of the writer of Ecclesiastes, since all men die no matter how they live their life, all labor, all pleasure, and the search for wisdom is vanity. *I said in mine heart concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts. For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity. All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.* Ecclesiastes 3:18-20. Although this passage of Scripture says that both man and beast go to one place, another verse in Ecclesiastes says that the spirit of man goes to a different place than the spirit of a beast: *Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?* Ecclesiastes 3:21. According to the writer of Ecclesiastes, after a man has died, he is forgotten: *For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have*

they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Ecclesiastes 9:5. Despite this seemingly pessimistic view of life that is expressed in Ecclesiastes, the writer believed that life could still be enjoyed, and he acknowledged that the good things in life are a gift from God: *There is nothing better for a man, than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God.* Ecclesiastes 2:24.

The sense that life is vanity arises from the view which is made apparent in Ecclesiastes, that life ends at death. This point of view is confirmed by gematria. The method of gematria that is used in this article involves using the Hebrew root word spelling, and not the proper grammatical spelling, for each word in a sentence that is consistent with what is written in Scripture. The gematria value of the sentence determined in this way is then shown to have direct correlation with a Greek word or words from the Bible which have the same numerical value. In the gematria evidence to follow, each Hebrew root word that is used in a sentence is identified by its reference number according to *Strong's Concordance*. Associated Greek words, which may be alternate spellings of the words according to rules of grammar are also identified by their Strong's reference numbers.

All of man's labor is vanity, because man's life on earth is fleeting.

Vanity (H1892) of vanities. (H1892) What (H4100) profit (H3504) has a man (H120) of all (H3605) his labor? (H5999) One (H259) generation (H1755) passes away, (H1980) and another (H312) generation (H1755) comes. (H935)

הבל הבל מה יתרון אדם כל עמל אחד דור הלך אחר דור בוא

9 + 210 + 209 + 55 + 210 + 13 + 140 + 50 + 45 + 666 + 45 + 37 + 37 = **1726**

ALL (G3956) IS (G2076) VANITY (G3153) = πᾶς ζῶν ἐστὶ ματαιότης = 281 + 515 + 930 = **1726**

The writing of Ecclesiastes is attributed to King Solomon. Solomon is the Preacher who said that all of man's life is vanity.

King (H4428) Solomon (H8019) said, (H559) vanity (H1892) of vanities, (H1892) all (H3605) of man's (H120) life (H1416) is vanity. (H1892)

מלך שלמה אמר הבל הבל כל אדם חי הבל

37 + 18 + 45 + 50 + 37 + 37 + 375 + 90 = **930**

VANITY (G3153) (root word spelling) = ματαιότης = **930**

Vanities (H1892) of vanities, (H1892) said (H559) King (H4428) Solomon, (H8010) What (H4100) profit (H3504) has a man (H120) of all (H3605) his labor? (H5999)

הבל הבל אמר מלך שלמה מה יתרון אדם כל עמל

140 + 50 + 45 + 666 + 45 + 375 + 90 + 241 + 37 + 37 = **1726**

ALL (G3956) **IS** (G2076) **VANITY** (G3153) = πᾶς ζῶη ἐστὶ ματαιότης = 281 + 515 + 930 = **1726**

Vanities (H1892) **of vanities**, (H1892) **said** (H559) **Solomon**, (H8010) **What** (H4100) **profit** (H3504) **has a man** (H120) **of all** (H3605) **his labor** (H5999) **under** (H8478) **the sun?** (H8121) **For** (H3588) **one** (H259) **generation** (H1755) **passes away**, (H1980) **and another generation** (H1755) **comes.** (H935)

הבל הבל אמר שלמה מה יתרון אדם כל עמל תחת שמש כי אחד דור הלך דור בוא
9 + 210 + 55 + 210 + 13 + 30 + 640 + 808 + 140 + 50 + 45 + 666 + 45 + 375 + 241 + 37 + 37 = **3611**

VANITY (G3153) **OF** (G1537) **VANITIES**, (G3153) **ALL** (G3956) **IS** (G2076) **VANITY** (G3153) = ματαιότης εκ ματαιότης πᾶς ἐστὶ ματαιότης = 930 + 25 + 930 + 281 + 515 + 930 = **3611**

In the following sentence, different Hebrew root words for “profit” and “labor,” from those that are used in Ecclesiastes, are employed, and yet the truth of Scripture is confirmed by the numerical word association.

The Preacher (H6953) **said**, (H559) **Vanity** (H1892) **of vanities**, (H1892) **What** (H4100) **profit** (H3276) **has a man** (H120) **of all** (H3605) **his labor?** (H3021) **For** (H3588) **it is all** (H3605) **vanity.** (H1892)

קהלת אמר הבל הבל מה יעל אדם כל יגע פי כל הבל
37 + 50 + 30 + 83 + 50 + 45 + 110 + 45 + 37 + 37 + 241 + 535 = **1300**

VANITY (G3153) = ματαιότητος = **1300**

It is written in Psalms that even the thoughts of man are vanity.

The LORD knoweth the thoughts of man, that they are vanity. Psalms 94:11. The following sentence uses the exact same Hebrew root words from Scripture.

The LORD (H3068) **knows** (H3045) **the thoughts** (H4284) **of man**, (H120) **that** (H3588) **they** (H1992) **are vanity.** (H1892)

יהוה ידע מחשבה אדם פי הם הבל
37 + 45 + 30 + 45 + 355 + 84 + 26 = **622**

VAIN/VANITIES/USELESS (G3152) (root word spelling) = ματαιός = **622**

The Preacher in Ecclesiastes writes that all of man’s labor is vanity.

All (H3605) **his labor** (H5999) **is vanity.** (H1892)

כל עמל הבל

$$37 + 140 + 50 = 227$$

LABOR (G2872) = κΕΚΟΠΙΑΚΑ = **227**

Vanity (H1892) **of vanities**, (H1892) **said** (H559) **the Preacher**, (H6953) **all** (H3605) **is vanity**, (H1892)

הבל הבל אמר קהלת כל הבל

$$37 + 50 + 535 + 241 + 37 + 37 = 937$$

LABOR (G2872) = ΚΟΠΙΑΣΑΥΤΕΣ = **937**

Concerning (H5921) **man**: (H120) **all** (H3605) **the labor** (H5999) **in his life** (H2416) **is vanity**, (H1892)

על אדם כל עמל חי הבל

$$37 + 18 + 140 + 50 + 45 + 100 = 440$$

LABOR (G2873) (root word spelling) = ΚΟΠΟΣ = **440**

Concerning (H5921) **the labor** (H3021) **of man**, (H120) **the Preacher**, (H6953) **the son** (H1121) **of David**, (H1732) **said** (H559) **this**: (H2088) **Vanity** (H1892) **of vanities**, (H1892) **all** (H3605) **vanity**. (H1892)

על עמל אדם קהלת בן דוד אמר זה הבל הבל כל הבל

$$37 + 50 + 37 + 37 + 12 + 241 + 14 + 52 + 535 + 45 + 140 + 100 = 1300$$

VANITY (G3153) = ματαιοτητος = **1300**

Vanity (H1892) **of vanities**. (H1892) **What** (H4100) **profit** (H3504) **has a man** (H120) **of all** (H3605) **his labor**? (H5999)

הבל הבל מה יתרון אדם כל עמל

$$140 + 50 + 45 + 666 + 45 + 37 + 37 = 1020$$

LABOR (G2873) = ΚΟΠΩΝ = **1020**

All of man's work, and everything he accomplishes is vanity.

All (H3605) **work** (H4639) **is vanity**.

כל מעשה הבל

$$37 + 415 + 37 = 547$$

WORK (G2038) = εργαζονται = **547**

Vanity (H1892) of vanities, (H1892) all (H3605) is vanity. (H1892) What (H4100) profit (H3276) has a man (H120) of all (H3605) his labor? (H5999)

הבל הבל כל הבל מה יעל אדם כל עמל

140 + 50 + 45 + 110 + 45 + 37 + 50 + 37 + 37 = **551**

WORK/LABOR (G2038) = εργαζομενος = 551

WORK/BE AT WORK (G1754) = ενηργειτο = 551

Each of the next three sentences concerning the vanity of man's labor has the same significant gematria value. (In the first sentence, the same Hebrew root words that are found in the KJV of Ecclesiastes 1:3, for "which he taketh," are used, and in other translations this reads: "which he toils.")

What (H4100) profit (H3504) has (H1961) a man (H120) of all (H3605) the labor (H5999) which he toils? (H7945) (H5998) It (H1931) is all (H3605) vanity. (H1892)

מה יתרון היה אדם כל עמל של עמל הוא כל הבל

37 + 50 + 12 + 640 + 808 + 140 + 50 + 45 + 20 + 666 + 45 = **1535**

The Preacher, (H6953) said, (H559) Vanity (H1892) of vanities. (H1892) What (H4100) profit (H3276) has (H1961) a man (H120) of all (H3605) his labor? (H4639)

קחלת אמר הבל הבל מה יעל היה אדם כל מעשה

415 + 50 + 45 + 20 + 110 + 45 + 37 + 37 + 241 + 535 = **1535**

Everything (H3605) under (H8478) the sun (H8121) is vanity. (H1892)

כל תחת שמש הבל

37 + 640 + 808 + 50 = **1535**

LABOR (G2872) = κοπιωvτες = 1535

The Preacher wrote that he had seen everything that was done, and it was all vanity. *I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit.* Ecclesiastes 1:14.

Vanity (H1892) of vanities, (H1892) all (H3605) is vanity. (H1892) For (H3588) everything (H3605) under (H8478) the sun (H8121) is vanity. (H1892)

הבל הבל כל הבל פי כל תחת שמש הבל

37 + 640 + 808 + 50 + 30 + 37 + 50 + 37 + 37 = **1726**

ALL (G3956) IS (G2076) VANITY (G3153) = πας ζωη εστι ματαιοτης = 281 + 515 + 930 = 1726

Vanity (H1892) of vanities. (H1892) What (H4100) profit (H3504) has a man (H120) of all (H3605) his labor (H5999) under (H8478) the sun? (H8121)

הבל הבל מה יתרון אדם כל עמל תחת שמש

$$640 + 808 + 140 + 50 + 45 + 666 + 45 + 37 + 37 = 2468$$

The Preacher is Solomon, the son of David.

The son (H1121) of David (H1732) said, (H559) all (H3605) things (H1697) a man (H120) does (H6213) under (H8478) the sun (H8121) is vanity. (H1892)

בן דוד אמר כל דבר אדם עשה תחת שמש הבל

$$37 + 640 + 808 + 375 + 45 + 206 + 50 + 241 + 14 + 52 = 2468$$

**THE LABOR (G2041) OF MAN (G444) IS VANITY (G3153) = εργον ανθρωπος
ματαιοτης = 228 + 1310 + 930 = 2468**

In the next three examples of gematria confirmation, the word for “is” is included in the same associated Greek phrase as used above.

What (H4100) profit (H3504) has (H1961) a man (H120) of all (H3605) the labor (H5999) which he toils (H7945) (H5998) under (H8478) the sun? (H8121) It (H1931) is all (H3605) vanity. (H1892)

מה יתרון היה אדם כל עמל של עמל תחת שמש הוא כל הבל

$$37 + 50 + 12 + 640 + 808 + 140 + 330 + 140 + 50 + 45 + 20 + 666 + 45 = 2983$$

The Preacher, (H6953) the son (H1121) of David, (H1732) said, (H559) What (H4100) profit (H3276) has a man (H120) of all (H3605) his labor? (H5999) For (H3588) one (H259) generation (H1755) passes away, (H1980) and another (H312) generation (H1755) comes, (H935) but (H3588) the earth (H776) abides (H5975) forever. (H5769)

קהלת בן דוד אמר מה יעל אדם כל עמל פי אחד דור הלך אחר דור בוא פי ארץ עמד עולם

$$146 + 114 + 291 + 30 + 9 + 210 + 209 + 55 + 210 + 13 + 30 + 140 + 50 + 45 + 110 + 45 + 241 + 14 + 52 + 535 = 2983$$

Vanity (H1892) of vanities, (H1892) said (H559) the Preacher, (H6953) What (H4100) profit (H3276) has (H1961) a man (H120) of all (H3605) his labor (H4639) under (H8478) the sun? (H8121)

הבל הבל אמר קהלת מה יעל היה אדם כל מעשה תחת שמש

$$640 + 808 + 415 + 50 + 45 + 20 + 110 + 45 + 535 + 241 + 37 + 37 = 2983$$

THE LABOR (G2041) OF MAN (G444) IS (G2076) VANITY (G3153) = εργον ανθρωπος
ἐστὶ ματαιοτης = 228 + 1310 + 515 + 930 = **2983**

For the next gematria association, the Greek word for “all” is added to this Greek phrase.

**Vanity (H1892) of vanities, (H1892) said (H559) the Preacher, (H6953) Vanity (H1892) of
vanities, (H1892) all (H3605) work (H4639) is vanity. (H1892) What (H4100) profit (H3276)
has a man (H120) of all (H3605) his labor (H5999) under (H8478) the sun? (H8121)**

הבל הבל אמר קהלת הבל הבל כל מעשה הבל מה יעל אדם כל עמל תחת שמש

640 + 808 + 415 + 50 + 45 + 110 + 45 + 37 + 50 + 37 + 37 + 14 + 52 + 535 + 241 + 37 + 37 =
3264

ALL (G3956) THE LABOR (G2041) OF MAN (G444) IS (G2076) VANITY (G3153) = πας
εργον ανθρωπος ἐστὶ ματαιοτης = 281 + 228 + 1310 + 515 + 930 = **3264**

The next gematria example uses a different root word for “labor” in the associated Greek phrase.

**The Preacher (H6953) said, (H559) What (H4100) profit (H3504) has a man (H120) of
everything (H3605) under (H8478) the sun? (H8121) One (H259) generation (H1755) passes
away, (H1980) and another (H312) generation (H1755) comes. (H935)**

קהלת אמר מה יתרון אדם כל תחת שמש אחד דור הלך אחר דור בוא

9 + 210 + 209 + 55 + 210 + 13 + 640 + 808 + 50 + 45 + 666 + 45 + 241 + 535 = **3736**

THE LABOR (G2872) OF MAN (G444) IS (G2076) VANITY (G3153) = κοπιαω
ανθρωπος ἐστὶ ματαιοτης = 981 + 1310 + 515 + 930 = **3736**

3736

**Vanity (H1892) of vanities, (H1892) said (H559) the Preacher, (H6953) Solomon, (H8010)
the king (H4428) in Jerusalem. (H3389) Vanity (H1892) of vanities. (H1892) What (H4100)
profit (H3276) has a man (H120) of all (H3605) his labor? (H5999) One (H259) generation
(H1755) passes away, (H1980) and another (H312) generation (H1755) comes. (H935)**

הבל הבל אמר קהלת שלמה מלך ירושלים הבל הבל מה יעל אדם כל עמל אחד דור
הלך אחר דור בוא

9 + 210 + 209 + 55 + 210 + 13 + 140 + 50 + 45 + 110 + 45 + 37 + 37 + 586 + 90 + 375 + 535 +
241 + 37 + 37 = **3071**

VANITY (G3153) OF VANITIES, (G3153) ALL (G3956) IS VANITY (G3153) = ματαιοτης
ματαιοτης πας ματαιοτης = 930 + 930 + 281 + 930 = **3071**

In the next gematria association, the root word for “is” is used in this same Greek phrase.

Vanity (H1892) of vanities, (H1892) said (H559) the Preacher, (H6953) the son (H1121) of David. (H1732) Vanity (H1892) of vanities. (H1892) All (H3605) labor (H5999) is vanity. (H1892) What (H4100) profit (H3504) has a man (H120) of all (H3605) his labor (H5999) under (H8478) the sun? (H8121)

הבל הבל אמר קהלת בן דוד הבל הבל כל עמל הבל מה יתרון אדם כל עמל תחת שמש

$$640 + 808 + 140 + 50 + 45 + 666 + 45 + 37 + 140 + 50 + 37 + 37 + 14 + 52 + 535 + 241 + 37 + 37 = 3611$$

VANITY (G3153) OF (G1537) VANITIES, (G3153) ALL (G3956) IS (G2076) VANITY (G3153) = ματαιοτης εκ ματαιοτης πας εστι ματαιοτης = 930 + 25 + 930 + 281 + 515 + 930 = 3611

As it is written in Ecclesiastes, and confirmed by the following four numerical word associations of the same gematria value, all of man's life is vanity.

The Preacher, (H6953) the king, (H4428) said, (H559) all (H3605) labor (H5999) under (H8478) the sun (H8121) is vanity. (H1892)

קהלת מלך אמר כל עמל תחת שמש הבל

$$37 + 640 + 808 + 140 + 50 + 241 + 90 + 535 = 2541$$

Vanity (H1892) of vanities, (H1892) said (H559) the Preacher, (H6953) vanity (H1892) of vanities, (H1892) all (H3605) is vanity. (H1892) What (H4100) profit (H3504) has a man (H120) of all (H3605) his labor? (H5999) One (H259) generation (H1755) passes away, (H1980) and another generation (H1755) comes. (H935) All (H3605) is vanity. (H1892)

הבל הבל אמר קהלת הבל הבל כל הבל מה יתרון אדם כל עמל אחד דור הלך דור בוא כל הבל

$$37 + 50 + 9 + 210 + 55 + 210 + 13 + 140 + 50 + 45 + 666 + 45 + 37 + 50 + 37 + 37 + 535 + 241 + 37 + 37 = 2541$$

The Preacher, (H6953) the king (H4428) in Jerusalem (H3389) said, (H559) What (H4100) profit (H3504) has (H1961) a man (H120) of all (H3605) the labor (H5999) in his life? (H2416) All (H3605) in life (H2416) is vanity. (H1892)

קהלת מלך ירושלים אמר מה יתרון היה אדם כל עמל חי כל חי הבל

$$37 + 18 + 50 + 18 + 140 + 50 + 45 + 20 + 666 + 45 + 241 + 586 + 90 + 535 = 2541$$

The Preacher, (H6953) the king, (H4428) the son (H1121) of David, (H1732) said, (H559) Vanity (H1892) of vanities, (H1892) everything (H3605) under (H8478) the sun (H8121) is vanity. (H1892)

קהלת מלך בן דוד אמר הבל הבל כל תחת שמש הבל

$$37 + 640 + 808 + 50 + 37 + 37 + 241 + 14 + 52 + 90 + 535 = \mathbf{2541}$$

$$\mathbf{ALL} \text{ (G3956) } \mathbf{LIFE} \text{ (G2222) } \mathbf{IS} \text{ (G2076) } \mathbf{VANITY} \text{ (G3153)} = \text{πας ζωη ἐστὶ ματαιοτης} = 281 + 815 + 515 + 930 = \mathbf{2541}$$

The Preacher in Ecclesiastes devoted his life to seeking wisdom, and found it to be only vanity: *And 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. I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit.* Ecclesiastes 1:13-14. After laboring to gain wisdom, everything is left to another who has not labored: *For there is a man whose labour is in wisdom, and in knowledge, and in equity; yet to a man that hath not laboured therein shall he leave it for his portion. This also is vanity and a great evil.* Ecclesiastes 2:21. *Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.* Ecclesiastes 9:10.

What (H4100) profit (H3504) has a man (H120) of all (H3605) his labor, (H5999) and search (H8446) for wisdom? (H2451)

מה יתרון יהיה אדם כל עמל תור חכמה

$$73 + 606 + 140 + 50 + 45 + 20 + 666 + 45 = \mathbf{1645}$$

STRIVE/LABOR/STUDY (G5389) = φιλοτιμουμενον = 1645

What (H4100) profit (H3504) has a man (H120) of all (H3605) his labor, (H5999) and search (H8446) for wisdom? (H2451) It (H1931) is only (H3173) vanity. (H1892)

מה יתרון יהיה אדם כל עמל תור חכמה הוא יחיד הבל

$$37 + 32 + 12 + 73 + 606 + 140 + 50 + 45 + 20 + 666 + 45 = \mathbf{1726}$$

$$\mathbf{ALL} \text{ (G3956) } \mathbf{IS} \text{ (G2076) } \mathbf{VANITY} \text{ (G3153)} = \text{πας ζωη ἐστὶ ματαιοτης} = 281 + 515 + 930 = \mathbf{1726}$$

The Preacher looked for satisfaction in pleasure, and found this to also be vanity: *I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure: and, behold, this also is vanity.* Ecclesiastes 2:1.

All (H3605) labor, (H5999) all (H3605) pleasure, (H2654) and to seek (H1245) wisdom, (H2451) is vanity. (H1892)

כל עמל כל חפץ בקש חכמה הבל

$$37 + 73 + 402 + 178 + 50 + 140 + 50 = \mathbf{930}$$

VANITY (G3153) (root word spelling) = ματαιοτης = 930

Everything in a man's life is vanity: his labor, his pleasure, his possessions, and his search for wisdom, are all vanity.

All (H3605) is vanity. (H1892) The labor (H5999) of man, (H120) his pleasure, (H2654) his possessions, (H3423), and his search (H8446) for wisdom, (H2451) are all (H3605) vanity. (H1892)

כל הבל עמל אדם חפץ ירש תור חכמה כל הבל

37 + 50 + 73 + 606 + 510 + 178 + 45 + 140 + 37 + 50 = **1726**

ALL (G3956) IS (G2076) VANITY (G3153) = πᾶς ζῶν ἐστὶ ματαιότης = 281 + 515 + 930 = 1726

The Preacher of Ecclesiastes is King Solomon, who was said to have been given great wisdom by God. *And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore. And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt.* 1Kings 4:29-30. *So king Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches and for wisdom.* 1Kings 10:23. *And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, and set in order many proverbs.* Ecclesiastes 12:9. The wise Preacher said that all labor, pleasure, and the search for wisdom, is vanity.

The wise (H2450) Preacher (H6953) said, (H559) All (H3065) is vanity. (H1892) All (H3605) labor, (H5999) all (H3605) pleasure, (H2654) and to seek (H1245) knowledge (H1847) and wisdom, (H2451) is vanity. (H1892) For (H3588) one (H259) generation (H1755) passes away, (H1980) and another (H312) generation (H1755) comes. (H935)

חכם קהלת אמר כל הבל כל עמל כל חפץ בקש דעת חכמה הבל כי אחד דור הלך אחר דור בוא

9 + 210 + 209 + 55 + 210 + 13 + 30 + 37 + 73 + 474 + 402 + 178 + 50 + 140 + 50 + 37 + 50 + 241 + 535 + 68 = **3071**

VANITY (G3153) OF VANITIES, (G3153) ALL (G3956) IS VANITY (G3153) = ματαιότης ματαιότης πᾶς ματαιότης = 930 + 930 + 281 + 930 = 3071

In the next two examples of gematria evidence, the Greek word for “is” is added to this same associated Greek phrase.

The Preacher (H6953) said, (H559) All (H3065) is vanity. (H1892) What (H4100) profit (H3504) has (H1961) a man (H120) of all (H3605) his labor? (H5999) All (H3605) his labor, (H5999) and search (H8446) to seek out (H1245) knowledge (H1847) and wisdom, (H2451) is vanity. (H1892)

קהלת אמר כל הבל מה יתרון יהיה אדם כל עמל כלעמל תור בקש דעת חכמה הבל

37 + 73 + 474 + 402 + 606 + 140 + 50 + 140 + 50 + 45 + 20 + 666 + 45 + 37 + 50 + 241 + 535 = **3611**

The Preacher said that all is vanity because both the wise and the foolish die.

Vanity (H1892) of vanities, (H1892) said (H559) king (H4428) Solomon, (H8010) the Preacher, (H6953) all (H3605) is vanity. (H1892) It (H1931) is vanity (H1892) for men (H120) to search (H8446) and seek out (H1245) wisdom: (H2451) both (H8147) the wise (H2450) and the foolish (H3684) die. (H4191)

הבל הבל אמר מלך שלמה פהלת כל הבל הוא הבל אדם תור בקש חכמה שנים חכם כסיל מות

446 + 120 + 68 + 400 + 73 + 402 + 606 + 45 + 37 + 12 + 37 + 50 + 535 + 375 + 90 + 241 + 37 + 37 = **3611**

VANITY (G3153) OF (G1537) VANITIES, (G3153) ALL (G3956) IS (G2076) VANITY (G3153) = ματαιοτης εκ ματαιοτης πας ἐστι ματαιοτης = 930 + 25 + 930 + 281 + 515 + 930 = 3611

The Preacher said that there was no profit in all the works of man. *Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.* Ecclesiastes 2:11

The Preacher discovered that man does not profit of all his labor.

Labor (H5999) does not (H3808) profit (H3504) a man. (H120) It (H1931) is all (H3605) vanity. (H1892)

עמל לא יתרון אדם הוא כל הבל

37 + 50 + 12 + 45 + 666 + 31 + 140 = **981**

LABOR (G2872) (root word spelling) = κοπιαω = 981

Vanity (H1892) of vanities, (H1892) all (H3605) is vanity. (H1892) All (H3605) labor (H5999) under (H8478) the sun (H8121) does not (H3808) profit (H3504) a man. (H120)

הבל הבל כל הבל כל עמל תחת שמש לא יתרון אדם

45 + 666 + 31 + 640 + 808 + 140 + 50 + 37 + 50 + 37 + 37 = **2541**

Vanity (H1892) of vanities, (H1892) all (H3605) is vanity. (H1892) All (H3605) labor (H5999) under (H8478) the sun (H8121) does not (H3808) profit (H3504) a man. (H120)

הבל הבל כל הבל כל עמל תחת שמש לא יתרון אדם

45 + 666 + 31 + 640 + 808 + 140 + 50 + 37 + 50 + 37 + 37 = **2541**

ALL (G3956) LIFE (G2222) IS (G2076) VANITY (G3153) = πας ζωη ἐστι ματαιοτης = 281 + 815 + 515 + 930 = 2541

Concerning (H5921) the life (H2416) of man: (H120) What (H4100) profit (H3504) has a man (H120) of all (H3605) his labor? (H5999) All (H3605) his labor (H5999) is vanity. (H1892)

על חי אדם מה יתרון אדם כל עמל כל עמל הבל

37 + 140 + 50 + 140 + 50 + 45 + 666 + 45 + 45 + 18 + 100 = 1386

PROFITABLE/PROFIT (G5624) = ωφελιμα = 1386

All (H3605) **is vanity.** (H1892) **Man** (H120) **does not** (H3808) **profit** (H3276) **of all** (H3605) **his labor.** (H5999) **His labor** (H5999) **is only** (H3173) **vanity.** (H1892)

כל הבל אדם לא יִתְרוֹן כל עמל עמל יחיד הבל

37 + 32 + 140 + 140 + 50 + 666 + 31 + 45 + 37 + 50 = 1228

PROFIT (G5539) (root word spelling) = χρησιμος = 1228

Vanity (H1892) **of vanities,** (H1892) **said** (H559) **the Preacher.** (H6953) **All** (H3605) **is vanity.** (H1892) **All** (H3605) **labor** (H5999) **is vanity,** (H1892) **and does not** (H3808) **profit** (H3276) **a man.** (H120)

הבל הבל אמר קהלת כל הבל כל עמל הבל לא יעל אדם

45 + 110 + 31 + 37 + 140 + 50 + 37 + 50 + 535 + 241 + 37 + 37 = 1350

PROFIT (G5623) = ωφελει = 1350

Vanity (H1892) **of vanities,** (H1892) **said** (H559) **the Preacher.** (H6953) **All** (H3605) **is vanity.** (H1892) **What** (H4100) **profit** (H3504) **has a man** (H120) **of all** (H3605) **his labor?** (H5999) **For** (H3588) **all** (H3605) **his labor** (H5999) **is vanity.** (H1892)

הבל הבל אמר קהלת כל הבל מה יתרון אדם כל עמל פי כל עמל הבל

37 + 140 + 50 + 30 + 140 + 50 + 45 + 666 + 45 + 37 + 50 + 535 + 241 + 37 + 37 = 2140

PROFIT (G5623) (root word spelling) = ωφελεω = 2140

Life is meaningful only when the majesty of God is acknowledged, and His commandments obeyed: *He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end. I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life. And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God. I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.* Ecclesiastes 3:11-14. *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.* Ecclesiastes 12:13.

What (H4100) **profit** (H1215) **has a man** (H120) **of all** (H3605) **his labor?** (H5999) **If** (H518) **he does not** (H3808) **fear** (H3372) **God,** (H430) **it is all** (H3605) **only** (H3173) **vanity.** (H1892)

מה בצע אדם כל עמל אם לא ירא אלהים כל יחיד הבל

37 + 32 + 50 + 86 + 211 + 31 + 41 + 140 + 50 + 45 + 162 + 45 = **930**

VANITY (G3153) (root word spelling) = ματαιοτης = **930**

The wise (H2450) Preacher (H6953) said, (H559) All (H3605) is vanity (H1892) if (H518) you do not (H3808) fear (H3372) God. (H430)

חכם קהלת אמר כל הבל אם לא ירא אלהים

86 + 211 + 31 + 41 + 37 + 50 + 241 + 535 + 68 = **1300**

All (H3605) is vanity (H1892) if (H518) you do not (H3808) fear (H3372) God, (H430) and keep (H8104) His commandments. (H4687)

כל הבל אם לא ירא אלהים שמר מצעה

141 + 540 + 86 + 211 + 31 + 41 + 37 + 50 = **1300**

VANITY (G3153) = ματαιοτητος = **1300**

Man (H120) does not (H3808) profit (H3276) of all (H3605) his labor (H5999) unless (H3884) he fears (H3372) God. (H430)

אדם לא יעל כל עמל לולא ירא אלהים

86 + 211 + 67 + 140 + 50 + 110 + 31 + 45 = **740**

WORK/LABOR (G2038) = ειργασαντο = **740**

All (H3605) labor (H5999) is vanity, (H1892) unless (H3588) (H518) you keep (H8104) the commandments (H4687) of God: (H430) for (H3588) this (H2088) is the whole (H3605) duty of man. (H120)

כל עמל הבל כי אם שמר מצעה אלהים כי זה כל אדם

45 + 50 + 12 + 30 + 86 + 141 + 540 + 41 + 30 + 37 + 140 + 50 = **1202**

VAIN/VANITIES (G3152) = ματαιων = **1202**

VANITY (G3153) = ματαιοτητος = **1300**

Man (H120) does not (H3808) profit (H3276) of all (H3605) his labor (H5999) unless (H3884) he fears (H3372) God, (H430) and keeps (H8104) His commandments: (H4687) for (H3588) this (H2088) is the whole (H3605) duty of man. (H120)

אדם לא יעל כל עמל לולא ירא אלהים שמר מצעה כי זה כל אדם

45 + 50 + 12 + 30 + 141 + 540 + 86 + 211 + 67 + 140 + 50 + 110 + 31 + 45 = **1558**

PROFIT (G5623) = **1558**

What (H4100) profit (H1215) has a man (H120) of all (H3605) his labor? (H5999) If (H518) he does not (H3808) fear (H3372) God, (H430) and keep (H8104) His commandments (H4687) it is all (H3605) only (H3173) vanity. (H1892)

מה בצע אדם כל עמל אם לא ירא אלהים שמר מצעה כל יחיד הבל

37 + 32 + 50 + 141 + 540 + 86 + 211 + 31 + 41 + 140 + 50 + 45 + 162 + 45 = **1611**

PROFIT (G6623) = ωφεληθησων = 1611

The next two numerical word associations have the same gematria value which confirms the truth of the sentence.

What (H4100) profit (H1215) has a man (H120) of all (H3605) his labor? (H5999) If (H518) he does not (H3808) fear (H3372) God, (H430) and keep (H8104) His commandments (H4687) it (H1931) is all (H3605) vanity. (H1892)

מה בצע אדם כל עמל אם לא ירא אלהים שמר מצעה הוא כל הבל

37 + 50 + 12 + 141 + 540 + 86 + 211 + 31 + 41 + 140 + 50 + 45 + 162 + 45 = **1591**

The work (H4369) of man (H120) is vanity (H1892) unless (H3588) (H518) the man (H120) fears (H3372) God, (H430) and keeps (H8104) His commandments, (H4687)

מעשה אדם הבל כי אם אדם ירא אלהים שמר מצעה

141 + 540 + 86 + 211 + 45 + 41 + 30 + 37 + 45 + 415 = **1591**

UNPROFITABLE (G512) = ανωφελες = 1591

Vanity (H1892) of vanities, (H1892) said (H559) the Preacher, (H6953) all (H3605) is vanity. (H1892) The conclusion (H5490) of the matter (H1697) is to fear (H3372) God, (H430) and to keep (H8104) His commandments: (H4687) this (H2088) is the whole (H3605) duty of man. (H120) Everything (H3605) else (H5750) is vanity. (H1892)

הבל הבל אמר קהלת כל הבל סוף דבר ירא סלהים שמר מצעה זה כל אדם כל עוד הבל

37 + 80 + 50 + 45 + 50 + 12 + 141 + 540 + 86 + 211 + 206 + 146 + 37 + 50 + 535 + 241 + 37 + 37 = **2541**

ALL (G3956) LIFE (G2222) IS (G2076) VANITY (G3153) = πας ζωη ἐστι ματαιοτης = 281 + 815 + 515 + 930 = 2541

The Preacher, (H6953) the king, (H4428) said, (H559) What (H4100) profit (H3504) has a man (H120) of all (H3605) his labor? (H5999) If (H518) he does not (H3808) fear (H3372) God, (H430) and keep (H8104) His commandments, (H4687) his labor (H5999) only (H3173) vanity. (H1892)

קהלת מלך אמר מה יתרון אדם כל עמל אם לא ירא אלהים שמר מצעה עמל יחיד
הבל

$37 + 32 + 140 + 141 + 540 + 86 + 211 + 31 + 41 + 140 + 50 + 45 + 666 + 45 + 241 + 90 + 535 =$
3071

**VANITY (G3153) OF VANITIES, (G3153) ALL (G3956) IS VANITY (G3153) = ματαιοτης
ματαιοτης πας ματαιοτης = 930 + 930 + 281 + 930 = 3071**

As noted at the beginning of this article, the Hebrew word that is used for “vanity” has the
connotation of a “vapor.” Gematria confirms that the life of man is nothing more than a vapor.

All (H3605) things (H1697) in the life (H2416) of man (H120) are vanity. (H1892)

כל דבר חי אדם הבל

$37 + 45 + 18 + 206 + 50 = 356$

MAN (G435) = ανδρας = 356

VAPOR (G822) = ατμιδα = 356

**All (H3605) things (H1697) in the life (H2416) of man (H120) are vanity. (H1892) Nothing
(H3808) (H3605) endures. (H5975)**

כל דבר חי אדם הבל לא כל עמד

$114 + 50 + 31 + 37 + 45 + 18 + 206 + 50 = 551$

VAPOR (G822) (root word spelling) = ατμις = 551

**Vanity (H1892) of vanities. (H1892) What (H4100) profit (H3504) has a man (H120) of all
(H3605) his labor? (H5999) One (H259) generation (H1755) passes away, (H1980) and
another (H312) generation (H1755) comes. (H935) Vanity (H1892) of vanities, (H1892) this
(H2088) is only (H3173) vanity. (H1892)**

הבל הבל מה יתרון אדם כל עמל אחד דור הלך אחר דור בוא הבל הבל זה יחיד
הבל

$37 + 32 + 12 + 37 + 37 + 9 + 210 + 209 + 55 + 210 + 13 + 140 + 50 + 45 + 666 + 45 + 37 + 37 =$
1881

**The Preacher (H6953) said, (H559) What (H4100) profit (H3504) has (H1961) a man (H120)
in the things (H1697) of life? (H2416) Everything (H3605) in life (H2416) is vanity. (H1892)**

קהלת אמר מה יתרון היה אדם דבר חי כל חי אהב

$37 + 18 + 50 + 18 + 206 + 45 + 20 + 666 + 45 + 241 + 535 = 1881$

LIFE (G2222) IS (G2076) A VAPOR (G822) = ζωη εστι ατμις = 815 + 515 + 551 = 1881

Vanity (H1892) of vanities, (H1892) said (H559) Solomon. (H8010) Vanity (H1892) of vanities, (H1892) all (H3605) is vanity. (H1892) What (H4100) profit (H3504) has (H1961) a man (H120) of all (H3605) the things (H1697) in life? (H2416) The things (H1697) in life (H2416) are vanity. (H1892)

הבל הבל אמר שלמה הבל הבל כל הבל מה יתרון יהיה אדם כל דבר חי דבר חי הבל

$$37 + 18 + 206 + 18 + 206 + 50 + 45 + 20 + 666 + 45 + 37 + 50 + 37 + 37 + 375 + 241 + 37 + 37 = 2162$$

The wise (H2450) Preacher, (H6953) the son (H1121) of David, (H1732) said, (H559) All (H3605) is vanity. (H1892) What (H4100) profit (H3504) has (H1961) a man (H120) of all (H3605) the things (H1697) in life? (H2416) For (H3588) everything (H3605) in life (H2416) is vanity. (H1892)

חכם קהלת בן דוד אמר כל הבל מה יתרון יהיה אדם כל דבר חי פי כל חי הבל

$$18 + 50 + 30 + 18 + 206 + 50 + 45 + 20 + 666 + 45 + 37 + 50 + 241 + 14 + 52 + 535 + 68 = 2162$$

$$\text{ALL (G3956) LIFE (G2222) IS (G2076) A VAPOR (G822) = } \pi\alpha\varsigma \zeta\omega\eta \acute{\epsilon}\sigma\tau\acute{\iota} \acute{\alpha}\tau\mu\acute{\iota}\varsigma = 281 + 815 + 515 + 551 = 2162$$

In the KJV of the Bible, Ecclesiastes 1:14, is written as follows: *I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit.* In the New American Standard version of the Bible it is written as: *I have seen all the works under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and striving after wind.* Ecclesiastes 1:14. The NIV Bible is translated in this way: *I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.* Ecclesiastes 1:14. The truth of this verse is shown through gematria whether man's labor is called "vexation of the spirit," "striving after wind," or "a chasing after the wind."

The KJV translation of what is written in Ecclesiastes 1:14, says that the works of man are "vanity and vexation of the spirit." In the following gematria example, the Hebrew root words that are used in the verse for "vexation of the spirit," are employed.

The son (H1121) of David (H1732) said, (H559) All (H3605) is vanity. (H1892) All (H3605) the works (H4639) that are done (H7945) (H6213) are all (H3605) vanity (H1892) and vexation (H7469) of the spirit. (H7307)

בן דוד אמר כל הבל כל מעשה של עשה כל הבל רעות רוח

$$214 + 676 + 37 + 50 + 375 + 330 + 415 + 50 + 37 + 50 + 241 + 14 + 52 = 2541$$

$$\text{ALL (G3956) LIFE (G2222) IS (G2076) VANITY (G3153) = } \pi\alpha\varsigma \zeta\omega\eta \acute{\epsilon}\sigma\tau\acute{\iota} \mu\alpha\tau\alpha\iota\sigma\tau\eta\varsigma = 281 + 815 + 515 + 930 = 2541$$

As noted, in the NAS Bible, "vexation of the spirit," is translated as "striving after the wind."

What (H4100) profit (H3504) has (H1961) a man (H120) of all (H3605) the labor (H5999) he has done? (H6213)

מה יתרון היה אדם כל עמל עשה

375 + 140 + 50 + 45 + 20 + 666 + 45 = **1341**

STRIVE/LABOR FERVENTLY (G75) = αγωνιζου = 1341

What (H4100) profit (H3504) has (H1961) a man (H120) of all (H3605) the labor (H5999) he has done? (H6213) All (H3605) his labor (H5999) is vanity. (H1892)

מה יתרון היה אדם כל עמל עשה כל עמל הבל

37 + 140 + 50 + 375 + 140 + 50 + 45 + 20 + 666 + 45 = **1568**

STRIVE AFTER (G75) THE WIND (G4151) = αγωνιζομαι πνευμα = 992 + 576 = 1568

Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun. Ecclesiastes 2:11. The Preacher looked at the works of his hands, and found all his labor to be vanity, and without profit.

What (H4100) profit (H3504) has (H1961) a man (H120) of the labor (H5999) of his hands? (H3027)

מה יתרון היה אדם עמל יד

14 + 140 + 45 + 20 + 666 + 45 = **930**

VANITY (G3153) (root word spelling) = ματαιοτης = 930

All the labor of his hands is simply a striving after, or chasing after the wind. Instead of the Hebrew root word for “vexation,” the Hebrew root word for “chasing” is used in the following numerical word associations, along with the same Hebrew word from Scripture that is used for both “spirit” or “wind.”

What (H4100) profit (H3504) has (H1961) a man (H120) of the labor (H5999) of his hands? (H3027) His labor (H5999) is a chasing after (H7291) the wind. (H7307)

מה יתרון היה אדם עמל יד עמל רדף רוח

214 + 284 + 140 + 14 + 140 + 45 + 20 + 666 + 45 = **1568**

Vanity (H1892) of vanities. (H1892) What (H4100) profit (H3504) has a man (H120) of all (H3605) his labor? (H5999) It is all (H3605) a chasing after (H7291) the wind. (H7307)

הבל הבל מה יתרון אדם כל עמל כל רדף רוח

214 + 284 + 50 + 140 + 50 + 45 + 666 + 45 + 37 + 37 = **1568**

STRIVE AFTER (G75) THE WIND (G4151) = αγωνιζομαι πνευμα = 992 + 576 = 1568

Different Hebrew root words for “chasing after” are used in the next two sentences.

The Preacher (H6953) said, (H559) all (H3605) of man’s (H120) labor (H5999) is a chasing (H1814) after (H312) the wind. (H7307)

קתלה אמר כל אדם עמל דלק אחר רוח

214 + 209 + 134 + 140 + 45 + 50 + 241 + 535 = **1568**

All (H3605) of man’s (H120) labor (H5999) is vanity, (H1892) and without (H369) profit. (H3504) It (H1931) is a chasing (H1814) after (H312) the wind. (H7307)

כל אדם עמל הבל אין יתרון הוא דלק אחר רוח

214 + 209 + 134 + 12 + 666 + 61 + 37 + 140 + 45 + 50 = **1568**

STRIVE AFTER (G75) THE WIND (G4151) = αγωνιζομαι πνευμα = 992 + 576 = 1568

The following three sentences concerning the vanity of man’s labor confirms that it is merely chasing after the wind.

The wise (H2450) Preacher (H6953) said, (H559) Vanity (H1892) of vanities, (H1892) all (H3065) is vanity. (H1892) What (H4100) profit (H3504) has a man (H120) of all (H3605) his labor? (H5999) All (H3605) his labor (H5999) is only (H3173) vanity. (H1892)

חכם קתלה אמר הבל הבל כל הבל מה יתרון אדם כל עמל כל עמל יחיד הבל

37 + 32 + 140 + 50 + 140 + 50 + 45 + 666 + 45 + 37 + 50 + 37 + 37 + 241 + 535 + 68 = **2210**

Vanity (H1892) of vanities. (H1892) All (H3605) labor (H5999) under (H8478) the sun (H8121) is a chasing after (H7291) the wind. (H7307)

הבל הבל כל עמל תחת שמש רדק רוח

214 + 284 + 640 + 808 + 140 + 50 + 37 + 37 = **2210**

The Preacher (H6953) said, (H559) All (H3605) the works (H4639) man (H120) has made (H6213) with his hands (H3027) is vanity, (H1892) and a chasing after (H7291) the wind. (H7307)

קתלה אמר כל מעשה אדם עשה יד הבל רדק רוח

214 + 284 + 37 + 14 + 375 + 45 + 415 + 50 + 241 + 535 = **2210**

The Greek root word that means “to persecute” and also has the meaning of “chase” is used in the associated Greek phrase with a gematria value of 2210.

CHASING AFTER (G75) THE WIND (G4151) = διωκω πνευμα = 1634 + 576 = 2210

Although the words of Ecclesiastes can leave one with a feeling despair, the writer says that there are ways in which to profit from life. In order to have a meaningful and abundant life man must have reverence for God and keep His commandments. *Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him: but it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God.* Ecclesiastes 8:12-13.

It is profitable (H3504) if (H518) a man (H120) fears (H3372) God, (H430) and keeps (H8104) His commandments. (H4687)

יתרון אם אדם ירא אלהים שמר מצעה

141 + 540 + 86 + 211 + 45 + 41 + 666 = **1730**

TO BE MADE RICH/TO HAVE ABUNDANCE (G4147) = πλουτων = 1730

ABOUND/TO HAVE ABUNDANCE (G4052) = περισευουσιν = 1730

The pursuit of one to find significance or contentment in their life takes many avenues. Some try to find it in their work or hobbies, and others try to find it in the pursuit of pleasure, with indulgence in alcohol, drugs, or sex. Still others look for satisfaction in wealth and possessions, or status among others. The noble pursuit of knowledge is often used to find meaning in life. All of these ways in which people try to find purpose and enjoyment in their lives are mentioned by the Preacher of Ecclesiastes, and for each endeavor he found it to be of no value, because death comes to everyone in the end.

In order to find enjoyment in life, the writer of Ecclesiastes described a simple solution: *Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works. Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no ointment. Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun. Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.* Ecclesiastes 9:7-10. One can find enjoyment in life by the things that are mentioned in this passage of Scripture, but what about finding purpose in life? The writer of Ecclesiastes also discovered that the purpose in life is to fear God: *Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God... For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities: but fear thou God.* Ecclesiastes 5:1, 7. *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.* Ecclesiastes 12:15.

In the end, man's life on earth will cease, no matter what he may have accomplished. The Old Testament provides only a shadow of the promise of salvation, resurrection, and eternal life, that is proclaimed in the New Testament. The hope of salvation came with the manifestation of God in the flesh, Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for our sins. The writer of Ecclesiastes implies that at death, the spirit of man returns to God, but says nothing more about what occurs after death, except that God will judge every work of man: *Then shall the dust return to the earth as it*

was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it. Ecclesiastes 12:7. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil. Ecclesiastes 12: 14.

The concept of life after death is alluded to in several Old Testament passages. In Job it is written: *For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Job 19:25-26.* A more clear indication that there is more to life than just an earthly existence is given by Daniel's end time prophecy: *And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Daniel 12:1-2.* Isaiah also wrote of a resurrection of the dead: *Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead. Isaiah 26:19.* The writer of Psalms proclaimed a hope for a life after death: *For he seeth that wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others. But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah. Psalms 49:10-15. Thou, which hast shewed me great and sore troubles, shalt quicken me again, and shalt bring me up again from the depths of the earth. Psalms 71:20.*

In the Old Testament, man is told to fear God and keep His commandments in order to have abundance of life on earth. In the New Testament, the mystery of salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is proclaimed. Jesus has fulfilled the law for us, and there is now the promise of salvation and resurrection for believers in Christ. *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. John 3:16-17.* Labor for one's self is vanity, but to believe in Jesus Christ, and to labor for His kingdom is not vanity, and has great reward. The reward of acknowledging Jesus Christ as Savior is eternal life: *Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. 1Corinthians 15:51-58.* Life is certainly like a vapor. It is fleeting, and often brings troubles, but there should be no despair. We have now been given the hope of eternal life through faith in Jesus, the one who bore our sins on the cross, and fulfilled the law, so that we are no longer subject to judgment.

