

ECCLESIASTES 4 vs 1

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The Hebrew title of this book is Qoheleth – one who speaks at the assembly – the Speaker. Solomon is not specifically mentioned in this book written around 935 bc though all references point to him as author. Martin Luther seems to be the first to suggest Solomon might not have written the book; but that it was written sometime after the Babylonian exile.

The NASB outlines Ecclesiastes with the following divisions: The Author and the Thesis; The Thesis demonstrated; God's Design for Life; **The Futility of Life**; The Futility of Riches; Advice for Living, and Conclusion.



Oppression, social injustice, the way of the world,

¹ Then I looked again, and saw all the acts of oppression that is done under the sun: and indeed the tears of the oppressed, with no one to redress their wrongs – and on the side of their oppressors -- tyrants in power, with no one to comfort them / the eternal God alone is just and right, He is where His people find shelter and justice. Deut. 33.

² So I praised the dead who are already dead more than the living who are still alive.

³ Yes, better than both of them, is the one who has never been, who has never seen the evil deeds that are done under the sun.

⁴ And I saw that all travail, and every right work, which is done is the result of envy between a man and his neighbor. This also is vanity and an irritation of the spirit.

⁵ The fool folds his hands, and consumes his own flesh.

⁶ Better is a handful of peace, than two fists full of travail and an irritation of the spirit.

⁷ Then I looked again, at vanity under the sun.

⁸ There was a man, without a dependent; yes, he had no child nor a brother: yet there was no end to all his labor; and his eyes were not satisfied with riches; and not asking, For whom do I labor, and deprive myself of good? This also is vanity, yes, it is a grievous task.

⁹ Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor.

¹⁰ For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion: but how terrible for the one who is alone when he falls; for he has no other to lift him.

¹¹ Again, if two lie down, together they keep warm: but how can one be warm alone?

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¹² And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

¹³ A young man, poor yet wise, is better than an old and foolish king, who no longer receives advice.

¹⁴ For he comes out of prison to reign; though he was born poor in his kingdom.

¹⁵ I have seen all the living under the sun, who throng to the side of the second man who replaces stands up in his place.

¹⁶ There is no end to all the people, to all who were before them: and even those who come later will not rejoice with him. Surely this also is vanity and an irritation of spirit.

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