

**References to "the good" in Qohelet**  
**April 28, 1988**  
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A. Pleasure

1. R)H +WB = enjoy pleasure

- a) 2:1 )FMA70R:T.IY ):ANIY03 B.:/LIB./I80Y? L:KFH-N.F91)  
):ANAS.:KF91H B:/&IM:XF73H W./R:)"74H B:/+O92WB? W:/HIN."71H  
GAM-H73W.) HF75BEL00?  
// SiMXaH
- b) 3:13 W:/GA70M K.FL-HF/)FDFM03 \$E/Y.O)KA74L W:/\$FTF80H  
W:/RF)F71H +O73WB B.:/KFL-( :AMFL/O92W MAT.A71T? ):ELOHI73YM  
HI75Y)00
- c) 5:17 HIN."62H ):A\$ER-RF)I74YTIY )F81NIY +O74WB  
):A\$ER-YFPE74H LE75/)EKOWL-14W:/LI/\$:T.OWT W:/LI/R:)O63WT?  
+OWBF61H B.:/KFL-( :AMFL/O74W05 \$E/Y.A(:AMO74L  
T.A75XAT-HA/\$.E81ME\$ MIS:P.A94R Y:M"Y-XAY./F91W  
):A\$ER-?NF75TAN-L/O71W HF/):ELOHI73YM K.IY-H71W.)  
XEL:Q/O75W00
- d) 6:6 W:/)IL.74W. XFYF81H )E70LEP \$FNIYM03 P.A(:AMA80YIM  
W:/+OWBF73H LO74) RF)F92H H:A/LO91) )EL-?MFQO71WM )EXF73D  
HA/K.O71L HOWL"75K:00?

2. Other expressions

- a) 4:8 Y"74\$ )EXFD04 W:/)"63YN \$"NI61Y G.A74M B."94N WF/)F74X  
)"75YN-L/O81W? W:/)"71YN Q"C03 L:/KFL-( :AMFL/O80W  
G.AM-\*( "YNFYW \*( "YN/O73W LO)-TI&:B.A74( (O92\$ER?  
W./L:/MI74Y05 ):ANI74Y (FM"81L W./M:XAS."70R )ET-NAP:\$/IY03  
MI/+OWBF80H? G.AM-ZE71H HE91BEL W:/ (IN:YA71N RF73( H75W.)00
- b) 7:14 B.:/YO70WM +OWBFH03 H:EY"74H B:/+O80WB W./B:/YO71WM  
RF(F73H R:)"92H? G.A74M )ET-ZE70H L:/(UM.AT-ZEH03 (F&F74H  
HF75/):ELOHI80YM? (AL-D.IB:RA81T \$E/L.O63) YIM:CF94)  
HF75/)FDF91M )AX:ARF73Y/W M:)75W.MFH00?
- c) 9:7 L"74K: ):EKO70L B.:/&IM:XFH03 LAX:M/E80KF W.95/\$:AT"71H  
B:/LEB-+O73WB Y"YN/E92KF? K.I74Y K:BF80R RFCF71H  
HF/):ELOHI73YM )E75T-MA(:A&E75Y/KF00?
- d) 11:7 W./MFTO73WQ HF/)O92WR W:/+O71WB LA75/("YNA73YIM  
LI/R:)O71WT )ET-HA/\$.F75ME\$00?

B. +oWB L person (cf. 9:4; 11:7)

1. What is good for L man?

- a) 2:3 T.A74R:T.IY B:/LIB./I80Y LI/M:\$O71WK: BA/Y.A73YIN  
 )ET-B.:&FR/I92Y W:/LIB./I62Y NOH"70G B.A75/XFK:MFH03

W:/LE/):EXO74Z? B.:/SIK:L80W.T (A74D ):A\$ER-)ER:)E81H  
)"Y-ZE63H +O61WB LI/B:N"70Y HF/)FDFM03 ):A\$E70R YA(:A&W.03?  
T.A74XAT HA/\$.FMA80YIM MIS:P.A73R Y:M"71Y XAY."Y/HE75M00?  
+oB LiB:NeY Ha)aDaM

b) 6:12 K.I74Y? MI75Y-YOWD"(A04 MAH-+.O63WB LF75/)FDF61M  
B.A75/XAY.I81YM MIS:P.A91R Y:M"Y-XAY."71Y HEB:L/O73W  
W:/YA(:A&/"74M? K.A/C."92L ):A\$ER03 MI75Y-YAG.I74YD  
LF75/)FDF80M MAH-Y.IH:YE71H )AX:ARF73Y/W T.A71XAT  
HA/\$.F75ME\$00?

## 2. Statements

a) 8:12 ):A\$E74R XO+E81) (O&E71H RF91( M:)A73T W./MA):ARI74YK:  
L/O92W? 10K.IY G.AM-YOWD"74(A )F80NIY ):A\$E70R?  
YIH:YEH-+.OWB03 L:/YIR:)"74H HF/):ELOHI80YM ):A\$E71R  
YI75YR:)73W. MI/L.:/PFNF75Y/W00?

b) 8:13 W:/+OWB03 LO75)-YIH:YE74H LF75/RF\$F80(  
W:/LO75)-YA):ARI71YK: YFMI73YM K.A/C."92L? ):A\$E91R  
)"Y/NE71N.W. YFR"73) MI/L.I/P:N"71Y ):ELOHI75YM00?

## 3. Denied

a) 8:15 W:/\$IB.A70X:T.I75Y ):ANIY03 )ET-HA/&.IM:XF80H ):A\$E63R  
)"75YN-+O70WB LF75/)FDFM03 T.A74XAT HA/\$.E80ME\$? K.I91Y  
)IM-LE/):EKO71WL W:/LI/\$:T.O73WT W:/LI/&:MO92WXA W:/H62W.)  
YIL:W/E74N.W. BA/(:AMFL/O81W Y:M"71Y XAY.F91Y/W?  
):A\$ER-NF75TAN L/O71W HF-):ELOHI73YM T.A71XAT HA/\$.F75ME\$00?

## C. )eYN +oWB

### 1. Ba)aDaM

a) 2:24 )"75YN-+O70WB B.F/)FDFM03 \$E/Y.O)KA74L W:/\$FTF80H  
W:/HER:)F94H )ET-NAP:\$/O91W +O73WB B.A/(:AMFL/O92W?  
G.AM-ZOH03 RF)I74YTIY )F80NIY K.I91Y MI/Y.A71D  
HF/):ELOHI73YM HI75Y)00?

b) 3:12 YFDA85(:T.IY K.I91Y? )"71YN +O73WB B./F92M K.I74Y  
)IM-LI/&:MO80WXA W:/LA/(:A&O71WT +O73WB B.:/XAY.F75Y/W00?

### 2. L + )DM (cf. 9:4 also)

a) 8:15 W:/\$IB.A70X:T.I75Y ):ANIY03 )ET-HA/&.IM:XF80H ):A\$E63R  
)"75YN-+O70WB LF75/)FDFM03 T.A74XAT HA/\$.E80ME\$? K.I91Y  
)IM-LE/):EKO71WL W:/LI/\$:T.O73WT W:/LI/&:MO92WXA W:/H62W.)  
YIL:W/E74N.W. BA/(:AMFL/O81W Y:M"71Y XAY.F91Y/W?  
):A\$ER-NF75TAN L/O71W HF-):ELOHI73YM T.A71XAT HA/\$.F75ME\$00?

### 3. General

a) 3:22 W:/RF)I81YTIY K.I74Y )"71YN +OWB03 M"/):A\$E63R  
YI&:MA70X? HF/)FDFM03 B.:75/MA(:A&F80Y/W K.IY-H73W.)

XEL:Q/O92W K.I74Y? MI74Y Y:BIY)/E63N.W.03 LI/R:)O80WT  
B.:/ME73H \$E/YIH:YE71H )AX:ARF75Y/W00?

#### D. Ethical goodness

##### 1. The person

a) +oWB L:PNeY )eLoHiYM

1) 2:26 K.I70Y L:/)FDFM03 \$E/+.O74WB L:/PFNF80Y/W NFTA91N  
XFK:MF71H W:/DA73(AT W:/&IM:XF92H W:/LA/XOW+E)04? NFTA63N  
(IN:YF61N LE/):ESO74WP W:/LI/K:NO81WS LF/T"T03 L:/+OWB03  
LI/P:N"74Y HF75/):ELOHI80YM G.AM-ZE71H? HE73BEL W./R:(71W.T  
R95W.XA00?

2) 7:26 W./MOWCE63) ):ANI61Y? MA74R MI/M.F81WET  
)ET-HF75/)I\$.FH03 ):A\$ER-HI63Y) M:COWDI94YM? WA/X:ARFMI91YM  
LIB./F73H. ):ASW.RI74YM YFDE92Y/HF? +O62WB LI/P:N"70Y  
HF/):ELOHIYM03 YIM.FL"74+ MI/M./E80N.FH W:/XOW+"73)  
YIL.F71KED B./F75H.00?

b) 9:2 HA/K.O62L K.A/):A\$E74R LA/K.O81L MIQ:RE63H )EXF61D?  
LA/C.AD.I70YQ W:/LF/RF\$F(03 LA/+.OWB03 W:/LA/+.FHO74WR  
W:/LA/+.FM"80)? W:/LA/Z.OB"80XA W:/LA/):A\$E73R )"YN/E74N.W.  
ZOB"92XA? K.A/+.OWB03 K.A75/XO+E80) HA/N.I\$:B.F85(  
K.A/):A\$E73R \$:BW.(F71H YFR"75)00?

##### 2. His deeds (a&aH +oB

a) 3:12 YFDA85(:T.IY K.I91Y? )"71YN +O73WB B./F92M K.I74Y  
)IM-LI/&:MO80WXA W:/LA/(:A&O71WT +O73WB B.:/XAY.F75Y/W00?

b) 7:20 K.I74Y )FDF80M )"71YN CAD.I73YQ B.F/)F92REC ):A\$E71R  
YA(:A&EH-+.O73WB W:/LO71) YEX:E+F75)00?

c) 9:18 +OWBF71H XFK:MF73H MI/K.:L"74Y Q:RF92B W:/XOW+E74)  
)EXF80D Y:)AB."71D +OWBF71H HAR:B."75H00

d) 12:14 K.I70Y )ET-K.FL-MA75(:A&E80H HF/):ELOHI91YM YFBI71)  
B:/MI\$:P.F73+? (A74L K.FL-NE(:LF92M )IM-+O73WB  
W:/)IM-RF75(00?

#### E. General approval--adjectival use of +oWB

##### 1. Attributive

a) 4:9 +OWBI71YM HA/\$.:NA73YIM MIN-HF/)EXF92D ):A\$E94R?  
Y"\$-L/FHE91M &FKF71R +O73WB B.A/(:AMFL/F75M00

b) 7:1 +O71WB \$"73M MI/\$.E74MEN +O92WB W:/YO74WM HA/M.F80WET  
MI/Y.O73WM HIW.FL:D/O75W00?

##### 2. Predicate

a) +oWB )a\$eR "It is good that"

- 1) 5:4 +O73WB ):A\$E74R LO75)-TID.O92R MI/\$.E/T.ID.O73WR  
W:/LO71) T:\$AL."75M00?
- 2) 5:17 HIN."62H ):A\$ER-RF)I74YTIY )F81NIY +O74WB  
):A\$ER-YFPE74H LE75/)EKOWL-14W:/LI/\$:T.OWT W:/LI/R:)O63WT?  
+OWBF61H B.:/KFL-( :AMFL/O74W05 \$E/Y.A(:AMO74L  
T.A75XAT-HA/\$.E81ME\$ MIS:P.A94R Y:M"Y-XAY./F91W  
):A\$ER-?NF75TAN-L/O71W HF/):ELOHI73YM K.IY-H71W.)  
XEL:Q/O75W00
- 3) 7:18 10+OWB ):A\$E74R T.E):EXO74Z B.F/ZE80H W:/GAM-MI/Z.E73H  
)AL-T.AN.A74X )ET-YFD/E92KF? K.I75Y-Y:R"71) ):ELOHI73YM  
Y"C"71) )ET-K.UL./F75M00?

b) Other

- 1) 7:11 +OWBF71H XFK:MF73H (I75M-NAX:ALF92H W:/YOT"73R  
L:/RO)"71Y HA/\$.F75ME\$00?
- 2) 11:6 B.A/B.O63QER03 Z:RA74( )ET-ZAR:(/E80KF W:/LF/(E73REB  
 )AL-T.AN.A74X YFD/E92KF? K.IY04 )"75YN/:KF63 YOWD"61( )"74Y  
ZE70H YIK:\$FR03 H:AZE74H )OW-ZE80H? W:/)IM-\$:N"Y/HE71M  
K.:/)EXF73D +OWBI75YM00?

3. "Better"

- a) 4:3 W:/+OWB03 MI/\$.:N"Y/HE80M )"71T ):A\$ER-( :ADE73N LO74)  
HFYF92H ):A\$E70R LO75)-RF)FH03? )ET-HA/M.A(:A&E74H HF/RF80(  
):A\$E71R NA(:A&F73H T.A71XAT HA/\$.F75ME\$00?
- b) 4:6 +O85WB M:LO71) KA73P NF92XAT MI/M.:LO71) XFP:NA91YIM  
(FMF73L W./R:(71W.T R75W.XA00?
- c) 4:9 +OWBI71YM HA/\$.:NA73YIM MIN-HF/)EXF92D ):A\$E94R?  
Y"\$-L/FHE91M &FKF71R +O73WB B.A/(:AMFL/F75M00
- d) 4:13 +O91WB YE71LED MIS:K."73N W:/XFKF92M MI/M.E70LEK:  
Zfq"N03 W./K:SI80YL? ):A\$E91R LO)-YFDA71( L:/HIZ.FH"73R  
(O75WD00?
- e) 6:3 )IM-YOWLI74YD )I74Y\$ M")F83H W:/\$FNIYM04 RAB.O63WT  
YI75H:YE61H? W:/RA74B05 \$E/Y.IH:Y74W. Y:M"75Y-\$FNF81Y/W?  
W:/NAP:\$/OW03 LO)-TI&:B.A74( MIN-HA/+.OWBF80H  
W:/GAM-Q:BW.RF73H LO)-HF74Y:TFH L./O92W? )FMA85R:T.IY +O71WB  
MI/M./E73N.W. HA/N.F75PEL00?
- f) 6:9 +O91WB MAR:)"71H ("YNA73YIM M"75/H:ALFK:-NF92PE\$?  
G.AM-ZE71H HE73BEL W./R:(71W.T R75W.XA00?
- g) 7:1 +O71WB \$"73M MI/\$.E74MEN +O92WB W:/YO74WM HA/M.F80WET  
MI/Y.O73WM HIW.FL:D/O75W00?

- h) 7:2 +O62WB LF/LE74KET )EL-B."75YT-)"81BEL MI/L.E63KET03  
 )EL-B."74YT MI\$:T.E80H? B.A/):A\$E85R H73W.) SO74WP  
 K.FL-HF/)FDF92M W:/HA/XA73Y YIT."71N )EL-LIB./O75W00?
- i) 7:3 +O71WB K.A73(AS MI/&.:XO92Q K.I75Y-B:/RO71(A P.FNI73YM  
 YI71Y+AB L"75B00?
- j) 7:5 +O85WB LI/\$:MO73(A G.A(:ARA74T XFKF92M M"/)I85Y\$  
 \$OM"73(A \$I71YR K.:SIYLI75YM00?
- k) 7:8 +O91WB )AX:ARI71YT D.FBF73R M"/R"95)\$IYT/O92W +O71WB  
 )E75REK:-R73W.XA MI/G.:BAH.-R75W.XA00?
- l) 7:10 )AL-T.O)MAR03 ME74H HFYF80H \$E70/HA/Y.FMIYM03  
 HF/RI74)\$ONI80YM HFY71W. +OWBI73YM M"/)"92L.EH? K.I91Y LO71)  
 M"XFK:MF73H \$F)A71L:T.F (AL-ZE75H00?
- m) 9:4 K.IY-MIY03 ):A\$E74R \*YIB.FX"R \*\*Y:XUBA80R )E71L  
 K.FL-HA/XAY.I73YM Y"74\$ B.I+.FXO92WN? K.I75Y-L:/KE70LEB  
 XAY03 H74W.) +O80WB MIN-HF/)AR:Y"73H HA/M."75T00?
- n) 9:16 W:/)FMA74R:T.IY )F80NIY? +OWBF71H XFK:MF73H  
 MI/G.:BW.RF92H W:/XFK:MA70T HA/M.IS:K."N03 B.:ZW.YF80H?  
 W./D:BFRF73Y/W )"YN/F71M NI\$:MF(I75YM00?

F. "Goods," material wealth (feminine in Hebrew)

1. Ha+oWBaH

- a) 5:10 B.I/R:BOWT03 HA/+.OWBF80H RAB.73W. )OWK:LE92Y/HF?  
 W./MAH-K.I\$:ROWN03 LI/B:(FLE80Y/HF K.I73Y )IM-\*R:)IY.AT  
 \*\*R:)71W.T ("YNF75Y/W00?
- b) 6:3 )IM-YOWLI74YD )I74Y\$ M")F83H W:/\$FNIYM04 RAB.O63WT  
 YI75H:YE61H? W:/RA74B05 \$E/Y.IH:Y74W. Y:M"75Y-\$FNF81Y/W?  
 W:/NAP:\$/OW03 LO)-TI&:B.A74( MIN-HA/+.OWBF80H  
 W:/GAM-Q:BW.RF73H LO)-HF74Y:TFH L./O92W? )FMA85R:T.IY +O71WB  
 MI/M./E73N.W. HA/N.F75PEL00?

2. +oWBaH

- a) 7:14 B.:/YO70WM +OWBFH03 H:EY"74H B:/+O80WB W./B:/YO71WM  
 RF(F73H R:)"92H? G.A74M )ET-ZE70H L:/(UM.AT-ZEH03 (F&F74H  
 HF75/):ELOHI80YM? (AL-D.IB:RA81T \$E/L.O63) YIM:CF94)  
 HF75/)FDF91M )AX:ARF73Y/W M:)75W.MFH00?