

## Advanced Hebrew:

Notes on the Translation of Ecclesiastes. A few things for the student to observe and do as he wends his way through the book. The items mentioned on these pages should be answered in the spaces allotted in neat, careful fashion. In a short form, this sort of work becomes an exegetical notebook.

Some starting points to remember:

The vocabulary is striking, unusual, some Aramaisms--but frightfully repetitious. The word you look up now you will need to look up later so have it in mind.

The language is poetic: verb tenses, et al, may not be what you might expect them to be.

Figures of speech abound...especially the hyperbole and the comparative forms. Watch for these in seeking the meaning of the text.

1:2 הַכֹּזֵף הַבְּלִי

is a form of superlative. Determine the exact meaning of הַכֹּזֵף. Contrast with שִׁי. Note that the latter is often translated "vain" but it is a different sort of vanity.

אֶמַּח

Explain the tense use of this verb.

1:3

עִמְלָךְ

with the aid of your concordance, discover all the Hebrew terms translated "work", "travail", "labour". Keep these as clearly in mind as is possible for sharper understanding of the complaints of the book.

1:7

שֶׁהַנֶּחֱלִים

The shortened form of the relative שֶׁ is as it occurs with הַנֶּחֱלִים is used repeatedly in Ecclesiastes. To identify it is adequate for now. At your leisure see the discussion in Gesenius.

4-7...Cohleth's cosmology is often questioned in these verses--or if that is the wrong scientific term, something like it. Read the critical note at this place in the Scofield Bible (Revised) and determine whether it is justified or not.