



BIBLE-ILAN

Course Syllabus: Ecclesiastes 11–12

This course provides an advanced philological and exegetical examination of the concluding chapters of Qoheleth. Students will explore Late Biblical Hebrew linguistic developments, Ancient Near Eastern wisdom parallels, and the theological synthesis of the book's epilogue.

Lesson	Focus	Core Objectives
Lesson 1	Eccl 11:1–4	Generosity, commercial risk, and philological analysis of liquid roots.
Lesson 2	Eccl 11:5–8	Divine inscrutability, metaphors of light/sun, and LBH shifts.
Lesson 3	Eccl 11:9–12:2	Youth terminology, divine judgment, and cosmic darkening imagery.
Lesson 4	Eccl 12:3–5	Allegory of bodily decay, anatomical metaphors, and ruin motifs.
Lesson 5	Eccl 12:6–9	Dissolution of life, thematic inclusio, and Aramaic linguistic influence.
Lesson 6-7	Eccl 12:10–14	Quest for truth, pedagogical metaphors, and the ultimate epilogue summary.

- Lesson 1 (Eccl 11:1–4):
 - Generosity & Uncertainty: Analysis of שְׂלַח לְחֶמֶד עַל־פְּנֵי הַמַּיִם and Egyptian parallels (Instruction of Ankhsheshonq).
 - Philology: Gender/number disagreement in הָיָה; usage of בָּ + רָאָה; liquid removal roots (קָ.רָ.קָ, קָ.רָ.קָ, קָ.רָ.קָ).
- Lesson 2 (Eccl 11:5–8):
 - Divine Inscrutability: Dual meaning of רוּחַ (wind/breath); בָּטֶן as locus of mystery; agricultural risk management.
 - Life vs. Death: Light/sun metaphors (Gilgamesh parallel); LBH shifts (/ רָב /הָרָבָה); inversion of day/night proverbs.
- Lesson 3 (Eccl 11:9–12:2):
 - Youth & Judgment: Terminology of youth (שְׁחָרוֹת, בְּחִירוֹת, יְלָדוֹת); legalistic warning (יְבִיאֲךָ הָאֱלֹהִים בְּמִשְׁפָּט).
 - Allegory of Aging: Abstract suffixes (-וֹת / -וֹת); cosmic darkening (sun, moon, stars); poetic function of waw.



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- Lesson 4 (Eccl 12:3–5):
 - Bodily Decay Allegory: Anatomical decline—keepers of the house (arms), strong men (legs), grinding maids (teeth), peering ladies (eyes).
 - Ruin Motifs: Prophetic ruin terms (שָׁפַל, שָׁחָח); verb יִסְתַּבֵּל; almond tree and grasshopper metaphors.
- Lesson 5 (Eccl 12:6–9):
 - Dissolution & Epilogue: Snapping silver cord; dust returning to earth and רוּחַ to God; stative verbs in Qal.
 - Inclusio & Language: Thematic frame הִבֵּל הַבָּלִים; LBH Pi'el expansion (Aramaic Pael); sage's verbs (אָזַן, חָקַר, תִּקַּן).
- Lesson 6-7 (Eccl 12:10–14):
 - Truth & Metaphors: Quest for דְּבַר־יִחְפֹּץ and דְּבַר־אֱמֶת; sayings as דְּרָבָנוֹת and מִשְׁמְרוֹת נְטוּעִים.
 - Epilogue Conclusion: Warning against endless bookmaking (עֲשׂוֹת סִפְרִים הַרְבֵּה); summary: אֶת־הָאֱלֹהִים יֵרָא וְאֶת־מַצּוֹתָיו שָׁמֹר (אֵין קֵץ).