



BIBLE-ILAN

Course Syllabus: Ecclesiastes 7

Lesson 1: Ecclesiastes 7:1–4

- **Introduction & Late Biblical Hebrew Idioms:** Overview of Ecclesiastes' place in the biblical canon; late idioms such as *hiwalledo*, *sachog*, and *yitten 'el libbo*.
- **Lexical Pun & Metaphorical Nuances:** The double meaning of *yitab lev* vs. conventional drunkenness; the term *kesil* (fool) and its metaphorical association with *shilshim* / *fit* obscuring wisdom.

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Lesson 2: Ecclesiastes 7:5–8

- **Alliteration, Wordplay & Sarcasm:** Rhetorical devices in Ecclesiastes 7:5-8, including the alliterative pun *Sirim / Sir* (thornbushes / pot).
- **Later Rabbinic & Mishnaic Idioms:** Legal and moral vocabulary evolution; analysis of *ga'arah* (reproof) and *matanah* (gift/bribe); the orthography of *gevah-ruach*.

Lesson 3: Ecclesiastes 7:9–12

- **Wisdom, Wealth & Life Under the Sun:** Idioms in Late Biblical Hebrew and Mishnaic Hebrew including *behal* in Pi'el (to hurry) and *sha'al 'al* (to inquire about).
- **Metaphors of Protection:** Re-examining *ro'ei hashemesh* as a metaphor for living; shade/shadow (*beysel chokhmah / beysel kasef*) as protection vs. obscurity.

Lesson 4: Ecclesiastes 7:13–16

- **Divine Providence & Human Limits:** The central verb *re'eh* (considering divine works); the causal preposition *'al-divrat* (because of / on account of) in LBH.



- **The Middle Path & Excess:** Warnings against excessive righteousness (*al-tehi tsaddiq harbeh*) and playing the wise man (*tit-chakkam*); the causal particle *lammah*.

Lesson 5: Ecclesiastes 7:17–20

- **Verbal Transformation & Nominal Inversion:** Adjectives shifting into active verbs (*tarsha'*); word order inversions for dramatic emphasis (topicalization).
- **Duty, Exemption & Human Imperfection:** The idiom *yatsa'* (discharging an obligation / doing one's duty); the non-existence of perfect human righteousness (*'adam 'ein tsaddiq ba'arets*).

Lesson 6: Ecclesiastes 7:21–24

- **Curses, Rumors & Human Nature:** The conjunction *'asher* marking cause-and-effect; the expression *yada' libbekha* (self-reflection / keeping in mind).
- **Testing Wisdom & the Limits of Understanding:** The root *n-s-y* (testing/attempting); the elusive and deep nature of wisdom (*rachok / 'amoq*).

Lesson 7: Ecclesiastes 7:25–29

- **The Search for Accounting & Human Nature:** The leitwort *cheshbon* (reckoning/reasoning); the LBH usage of *matsa'* (perceiving/understanding).
- **Textual Issues & Gender Imagery:** Analysis of the title *amrah Qohelet* and its grammatical anomalies; human traps, fetters, and the original uprightness of humanity (*'asah ha'elohim 'et ha'adam yashar*).