Ecclesiastes 4

Alte englische Darby-Übersetzung

1 And I returned and saw all the oppressions that are done under the sun: and behold, the tears of the oppressed, and they had no comforter; and on the side of their oppressors was power, and they had no comforter. **2** Then I praised the dead who are already dead more than the living who are yet alive; **3** and more fortunate than both is he who hath not yet been, who hath not seen the evil work that is done under the sun.

4 And I saw all labour, and all success of work, that it is man's jealousy of his neighbour. This also is vanity and pursuit of the wind. **5** The fool foldeth his hands together, and eateth his own flesh. **6** Better is a handful with quietness, than both hands full with labour and pursuit of the wind.

7 And I returned and saw vanity under the sun. **8** There is one alone and without a second; also he hath neither son nor brother: yet is there no end of all his labour, neither is his eye satisfied with riches, and he saith not , For whom then am I labouring, and depriving my soul of good? This also is vanity and a grievous occupation. **9** Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. **10** For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him that is alone when he falleth, and who hath not another to lift him up! **11** Again, if two lie together, then they have warmth; but how can one alone be warm? **12** And if a man overpower the one, the two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

13 Better is a poor but wise youth than an old and foolish king, who knoweth no more how to be admonished. **14** For out of the prison-house he came forth to reign, although he was born poor in his kingdom. **15** I saw all the living that walk under the sun, with the child, the second, that should stand up in his stead. **16** There is no end of all the people, of all that stood before them; those however that come after shall not rejoice in him. Surely this also is vanity and a striving after the wind.