

# Ecclesiastes 1:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits.

## Analysis

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**The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north—**Qoheleth observes natural cycles with scientific precision. The Hebrew ruach (רוּחַ, wind/spirit/breath) circles endlessly in its savivim (סְבִיבִים, circuits/courses). Ancient observers noted seasonal wind patterns: winter winds from the north, summer from the south. Yet despite constant motion, the wind returneth again according to his circuits—ceaseless activity producing no ultimate change.

This continues verse 4's theme: generations come and go, yet earth remains. Wind exemplifies perpetual motion without progress, illustrating life 'under the sun' as wearisome repetition. Unlike the Spirit's regenerating work (John 3:8, same Greek word pneuma), natural wind merely recycles. Only divine intervention breaks the cycle of futility.

## Historical Context

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Solomon wrote during Israel's apex (970-930 BC) when international trade brought him knowledge of meteorology, geography, and natural philosophy from across the ancient world. His scientific observations (1 Kings 4:33) informed Ecclesiastes' nature poetry. The 'circuits' language reflects pre-modern understanding of atmospheric circulation, remarkably accurate for its era while serving theological purpose: even majestic natural phenomena ultimately go nowhere without God.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. What areas of your life feel like wind circuits—constant motion but no meaningful progress toward purpose?
2. How does Ecclesiastes' observation of repetitive natural cycles contrast with the Spirit's transforming, linear work in redemption history?

## Interlinear Text

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הוֹלֵךְ goeth H1980	אֶל H413	דָּרֹם toward the south H1864	סָבֵב and turneth about H5437	אֶל H413	צָפֹן unto the north H6828
סָבֵב and turneth about H5437	סָבֵב and turneth about H5437	הוֹלֵךְ goeth H1980	הַרוּחַ: The wind H7307	וְעַל H5921	
סְבִיבֹתָיו according to his circuits H5439	שׁוּב returneth again H7725	הַרוּחַ: The wind H7307			

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 3:8** (Parallel theme): The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.