

# Ecclesiastes 6:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Seeing there be many things that increase vanity, what is man the better?

## Analysis

**Seeing there be many things that increase vanity** (פִּי יְשָׁذְבָּרִים בְּרָבָה מִרְבִּים בָּל) —The Hebrew structure emphasizes multiplication: 'many words multiplying vapor.' More talking, philosophizing, and human effort only compounds futility. **What is man the better?** (עַמָּה יִתֵּר לְאַתָּם) —Again the question of yōtēr, 'profit' or 'advantage.'

This anticipates Jesus's warning: 'Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven' (Matt 7:21). Mere words—even religious words—profit nothing without divine grace. James 1:22 similarly warns against being 'hearers only' who multiply words without obedient action.

## Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern wisdom valued concise, memorable sayings (as in Proverbs). The Preacher's critique of multiplied words reflects frustration with verbose philosophy that obscures rather than reveals truth. Greek philosophy, which later dominated the Mediterranean world, would prove his point.

## Related Passages

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. What 'many words' in your spiritual life might be multiplying vanity instead of producing fruit?
2. How does Jesus, the living Word (John 1:1), cut through futile religious verbosity to offer true life?

## Interlinear Text

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רִ	תִּ	רַ	מֵ	תִּ	בְּ	רַ	מֵ	רִ
H3588	<b>Seeing there be</b>	H3426	<b>things</b>	H1697	<b>many</b>	H7235	<b>many</b>	H1892

H4100

**the better**

H3148

לְאַדְםָ:

**what is man**

H120

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ecclesiastes 4:16** (Parallel theme): There is no end of all the people, even of all that have been before them: they also that come after shall not rejoice in him. Surely this also is vanity and vexation of spirit.

**Ecclesiastes 5:7** (Parallel theme): For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities: but fear thou God.

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