## Notes on "Profit" March 12, 1988 H. Van Dyke Parunak

- A. Where profit isn't
  - 1. In labor, 1:3; 2:11; 3:9; 5:16
- B. Where profit is
  - 1. In Wisdom, 2:13; 7:12; 10:10 (yet 2:14, the fool and the wise man meet the same end)
- C. Refs.
  - 1. YITRON
    - a) 1:3 What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?
    - b) 2:11 Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all [was] vanity and vexation of spirit, and [there was] no profit under the sun.
    - c) 2:13 Then I saw that wisdom excelleth folly, as far as light excelleth darkness.
    - d) 3:9 What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth?
    - e) 5:9 Moreover the profit of the earth is for all: the king [himself] is served by the field.
    - f) 5:16 And this also [is] a sore evil, [that] in all points as he came, so shall he go: and what profit hath he that hath laboured for the wind?
    - g) 7:12 For wisdom [is] a defence, [and] money [is] a defence: but the excellency of knowledge [is, that] wisdom giveth life to them that have it.
    - h) 10:10 If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom [is] profitable to direct.
    - i) 10:11 Surely the serpent will bite without enchantment; and a babbler is no better. (Needs sense of "profit" or "advantage" to match other uses of YITRON)

## 2. MOTAR

a) 3:19 For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all [is] vanity.

## 3. YOTER

These all appear to have the vanilla sense of "more" or "better," leading to my modified translation (following ASV) for 7:11.

- a) 2:15 Then said I in my heart, As it happeneth to the fool, so it happeneth even to me; and why was I then more wise? Then I said in my heart, that this also [is] vanity.
- b) 6:8 For what hath the wise more than the fool? what hath the poor, that knoweth to walk before the living?
- c) 6:11 Seeing there be many things that increase vanity, what [is] man the better?
- d) 7:11 Wisdom [is] {as} good {as} an inheritance: {indeed it

- is better for} them that see the sun.
- e) 7:16 Be not righteous over much; neither make thyself over wise: why shouldest thou destroy thyself?
- f) 12:9 And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, [and] set in order many proverbs.
- g) 12:12 And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books [there is] no end; and much study [is] a weariness of the flesh.