

## 'Hebel (לְבָהֶ) as temporary

**Hebel is paralleled with “wind”, also transitory or passing away.**

**Is 57:13** When you cry out, let your collection of idols deliver you!  
The wind will carry them all off,  
a breath will take them away.  
But he who takes refuge in me shall possess the land  
and shall inherit my holy mountain.

**Job doesn't want to live forever, his days are just hebel.**

**Job 7:16** I loathe my life; I would not live forever.  
Leave me alone, for my days are a breath.

**Hebel is translated “worthless”, but with the clear idea of passing away.**

**Jer 10:15 & 51:18** They are worthless, a work of delusion;  
at the time of their punishment they shall perish.

**Hebel is a breath that quickly passes away.**

**Ps 39:5** Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths,  
and my lifetime is as nothing before you.  
Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath!

**Ps 39:11** When you discipline a man  
with rebukes for sin,  
you consume like a moth what is dear to him;  
surely all mankind is a mere breath!

**Ps 78:33** So he made their days vanish like<sup>[a]</sup> a breath,<sup>[b]</sup>  
and their years in terror.

**Ps 144:4** Man is like a breath;  
his days are like a passing shadow.

**Is beauty worthless or bad, or is it just fleeting? The idea of temporary would fit well.**

**Proverbs 31:30** Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,  
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

**Vain could be translated ‘brief’ and fit the context well:**

**Ecc 6:12** For who knows what is good for man while he lives the few days of his vain<sup>[a]</sup> life,  
which he passes like a shadow? For who can tell man what will be after him under the sun?

**Ecc 3:19** For what happens to the children of man and what happens to the beasts is the same;  
as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and man has no advantage over  
the beasts, for all is vanity.<sup>[a]</sup>

**Ecc 7:15** In my vain<sup>[a]</sup> life I have seen everything. There is a righteous man who perishes in his  
righteousness, and there is a wicked man who prolongs his life in his evildoing.

**Ecc 9:9** Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain<sup>[a]</sup> life that he has given  
you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under  
the sun.

**Ecc 11:8** So if a person lives many years, let him rejoice in them all; but let him remember that  
the days of darkness will be many. All that comes is vanity.<sup>[a]</sup>