

# Psalm 049 - The Vanity and End of Those Who Boast in Riches

## Psalm 49

[To the chief Musician, A Psalm for the sons of Korah.]

### The Destiny of the Wicked and the Upright

- 1 Hear this, all peoples; Listen, all inhabitants of the world,
- 1 Hear this, all peoples; Give ear, all inhabitants of the world,
- 1 Listen to this, all you people! Pay attention, all you who live in the world,
- 1 Hear this, all ye people; give ear, all ye inhabitants of the world:
  
- 2 Both low and high, Rich and poor together.
- 2 Both low and high, Rich and poor together.
- 2 both average people and those of means, the rich and the poor together.
- 2 Both low and high, rich and poor, together.
  
- 3 My mouth will speak wisdom, And the meditation of my heart *will be* understanding.
- 3 My mouth will speak wisdom, And the meditation of my heart *will be* understanding.
- 3 My mouth will speak wisely, and I will understand what I think about.
- 3 My mouth shall speak of wisdom; and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding.
  
- 4 I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will express my riddle on the harp.
- 4 I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will express my riddle on the harp.
- 4 I will focus my attention on a proverb; I will use the harp to expound my riddle.
- 4 I will incline mine ear to a parable: I will open my dark saying upon the harp.
  
- 5 Why should I fear in days of adversity, When the injustice of those who betray me surrounds me,
- 5 Why should I fear in days of adversity, When the iniquity of my foes surrounds me,
- 5 Why should I be afraid when evil days come my way, when the wickedness of those who deceive me surrounds me—
- 5 Wherefore should I fear in the days of evil, when the iniquity of my heels shall compass me about?

6 Those who trust in their wealth And boast in the abundance of their riches?  
6 Even those who trust in their wealth And boast in the abundance of their riches?  
6 those who put confidence in their wealth and boast about their great riches?  
6 They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches;

7 No one can by any means redeem another Or give God a ransom for him—  
7 No man can by any means redeem *his* brother Or give to God a ransom for him—  
7 No man can redeem the life of another, nor can he give to God a sufficient payment for him—  
7 None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him:

8 For the redemption of his soul is priceless, And he should cease *imagining* forever—  
8 For the redemption of his soul is costly, And he should cease *trying* forever—  
8 for it would cost too much to redeem his life, and the payments would go on forever—  
8 (For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth for ever:)

9 That he might live on eternally, That he might not undergo decay.  
9 That he should live on eternally, That he should not undergo decay.  
9 that he should go on living and not see corruption.  
9 That he should still live for ever, and not see corruption.

**10** For he sees *that even* wise people die; The foolish and the stupid alike perish And leave their wealth to others.

**10** For he sees *that even* wise men die; The stupid and the senseless alike perish And leave their wealth to others.

10 Indeed, he will see wise people die; the stupid and the senseless will meet their doom and leave their wealth to others.

10 For he seeth that wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others.

11 Their inner thought is *that* their houses are forever *And* their dwelling places to all generations; They have named their lands after their own names.

11 Their inner thought is *that* their houses are forever *And* their dwelling places to all generations; They have called their lands after their own names.

11 Their inner thoughts are on their homes forever; their dwellings from generation to generation. They even name their lands after themselves.

11 Their inward thought is, that their houses shall continue for ever, and their dwelling places to all generations; they call their lands after their own names.

12 But man in *his* splendor will not endure; He is like the animals that perish.  
12 But man in *his* pomp will not endure; He is like the beasts that perish.  
12 But humanity cannot last, despite its conceit; it will pass away just like the animals.  
12 Nevertheless man being in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts that perish.

**13** This is the way of those who are foolish, And of those after them who approve their words. *Selah*

**13** This is the way of those who are foolish, And of those after them who approve their words. *Selah*.

13 This is the fate of those who are foolish and of those who correct their words after they speak.

13 This their way is their folly: yet their posterity approve their sayings. *Selah*.

14 Like sheep they sink down to Sheol; Death will be their shepherd; And the upright will rule over them in the morning, And their form shall be for Sheol to consume So that they have no lofty home.

14 As sheep they are appointed for Sheol; Death shall be their shepherd; And the upright shall rule over them in the morning, And their form shall be for Sheol to consume So that they have no habitation.

14 Like sheep, they are destined for the realm of the dead, with death as their shepherd. The upright will have dominion over them in the morning; their strength will be consumed in the afterlife, so that they have no home.

14 Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall consume in the grave from their dwelling.

15 But God will redeem my soul from the power of Sheol, For He will receive me. *Selah*

15 But God will redeem my soul from the power of Sheol, For He will receive me. *Selah*.

15 God will truly redeem me from the power of Sheol. He will surely receive me!

15 But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. *Selah*.

**16** Do not be afraid when a person becomes rich, When the splendor of his house is increased;

**16** Do not be afraid when a man becomes rich, When the glory of his house is increased;

16 Don't be afraid when someone gets rich, when the glory of his household increases.

16 Be not thou afraid when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased;

17 For when he dies, he will take nothing *with him*; His wealth will not descend after him.  
17 For when he dies he will carry nothing away; His glory will not descend after him.  
17 When he dies, he will not be able to take it all with him— his possessions will not follow him to the grave,  
17 For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him.

18 Though while he lives he congratulates himself— And though *people* praise you when you do well for yourself—  
18 Though while he lives he congratulates himself— And though *men* praise you when you do well for yourself—  
18 although he considers himself blessed while he's alive. Though people praise you for doing well,  
18 Though while he lived he blessed his soul: and men will praise thee, when thou doest well to thyself.

19 He will go to the generation of his fathers; They will never see the light.  
19 He shall go to the generation of his fathers; They will never see the light.  
19 you will end up like your ancestors' generation, never again to see the light of day!  
19 He shall go to the generation of his fathers; they shall never see light.

20 Mankind in *its* splendor, yet without understanding, Is like the animals *that* perish.  
20 Man in *his* pomp, yet without understanding, Is like the beasts that perish.  
20 Humanity, despite its conceit, does not understand that it will perish, just like the animals.  
20 Man that is in honour, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish.