

Psalm 49 New American Standard Bible

The Foolishness of Trusting in Riches.

A Psalm of the sons of Korah.

Hear this, all peoples; Listen, all inhabitants of the world, ²Both low and high, Rich and poor together. ³My mouth will speak wisdom, And the meditation of my heart *will be* understanding. ⁴I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will express my riddle on the harp. ⁵Why should I fear in days of adversity, When the injustice of those who betray me surrounds me,

⁶Those who trust in their wealth And boast in the abundance of their riches?

⁷No one can by any means redeem another Or give God a ransom for him—

⁸For the redemption of his soul is priceless, And he should cease *imagining* forever That he might not ¹undergo decay. ¹⁰For he sees *that even* wise people die;

The foolish and the stupid alike perish And leave their wealth to others.

¹¹Their inner thought is *that* their houses are forever

And their dwelling places to all generations; They have named their lands after their own names.

¹²But man in *his* splendor will not endure; He is like the animals that perish.

¹³This is the way of those who are foolish, And of those after them who approve their words. ¹⁴Like sheep they sink down to 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. ¹⁵But God will redeem my soul from the power of Sheol, For He will receive me.

¹⁶Do not be afraid when a person becomes rich, When the splendor of his house is increased; ¹⁷For when he dies, he will take nothing *with him*; His wealth will not descend after him. ¹⁸Though while he lives he congratulates himself And though *people* praise you when you do well for yourself ¹⁹He will go to the generation of his fathers; They will never see the light. ²⁰Mankind in *its* splendor, yet without understanding, Is like the animals *that* perish.

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We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

1. The psalm was written by the sons of Korah after recognizing their father's greed for wealth as the root of his downfall, and to teach that the purpose of one's life on earth is to enhance his or her spiritual development and to prepare for the world to come.
2. The Kohathites descended from the Sons of Korah. They were an important branch of the singers of the Kohathite division (2 Chronicles 20:19).
3. The Sons of Korah were the sons of Moses' nephew Korah.
4. The story of Korah is found in Numbers 16.
5. Korah led a revolt against Moses; he died, along with all his co-conspirators, when God caused "the earth to open her mouth and swallow him and all that appertained to them" (Numbers 16:31-33).
6. However, "the children of Korah died not" (Numbers 26:11).
7. Several psalms are described in their opening verses as being by the Sons of Korah: numbers 42, 44–49, 84, 85, 87 and 88.
8. Who wrote Psalm 49?
9. The Psalm is a call to all to pay attention to what is about to be declared.
10. Whatever is our reality of life, there are some things in life that will apply to us all.
11. It takes a lot of courage to invite everyone to listen to what you call 'wisdom'.
12. What is it to 'meditate in your heart' and for what purpose do we do it?
13. Inclining your ear is to give your all, to pay attention and to understand with everything that is within (your body, soul and spirit).
14. Many songs are written to music that express the contemplations of our hearts.
15. As a believer in Christ should we ever fear?
16. When adversary comes and our enemy rises up against us, what should we do?
17. The fool puts his trust in his wealth to redeem him from his enemy, but the wise person puts their trust in God.
18. How do you know you are trusting in God?

19. What are the hallmarks of you trusting in God?
20. You cannot redeem your own soul!
21. If you don't see yourself as an eternal being, you will be short sighted, and your life will reflect the spirit of 'eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow you die'.
22. To redeem is to buy back a debt.
23. Physical decay to the body is for most of us, the only ones that will escape are those who rise to meet Him in the air on His return.
24. The wise, the stupid and the senseless die - all they are and all they have will be taken away from them at death.
25. The only thing that will remain is the honour of their name.
26. The beast, as well as the man, will perish. The word perish means no longer fit for purpose because the spirit has left the body.
27. A short-sighted perception of life is to align yourself with the foolish.
28. Christians are not destined for Sheol, this is a place of disembodied spirits, but for the unbeliever, those who disregard God, death shall be their shepherd and go ahead of them and lead them all the way to their destiny, sheol/hades, a place with disembodied spirits.
29. Sheol will consume their form and all they are, they will have no habitat because they will be disembodied.
30. God will, if we put our trust in Him, redeem us from the power of sheol and it's right to take charge over us at death.
31. God will receive all who trust in Him.
32. Don't be impressed by those who get rich but die in sheol, they may well congratulate themselves regarding their riches and receive praise and honour, but they will go to the place of their fathers.
33. There they will never see the light.