

PSALM 49 – WISELY NOT TRUSTING IN EARTHLY WEALTH!

Read the Psalm

Translational Notes

הִאֲזִינוּ -1: listen, hear, obey, *give ear*

גַּם־בְּנֵי־אָדָם גַּם־בְּנֵי־אֱיִשׁ - 2: literally “also son of man (most common word *adam*)
also son of man (used in many uses *aysh*)”

חֲכָמָה -3: wisdom (transliteration: *chokmah* ; Phonetic spelling: *khok-maw*)

לֹא־פְדָה -7: ransom (purchase, redeem) – same word in verse 8

בִּיקָר - 12: preciousness, price, honor *for pomp*; same as verse 20

Psalm Notes:

Written by Sons of Korah. Kohath was a son of Levi. The Levites were temple workers, but not priests. Korah is the grandson of Kohath. He grouped up with Dathan and Abiram, and the three of them rebelled against Moses. So, God opened the ground the swallowed up the rebellious men and their followers – 250 men. However, God spared Korah’s sons. Many important men came from these sons including the prophet Samuel, some of King David’s expert warriors, and many of the doorkeepers and custodians of the tabernacle. They apparently also became masters musicians and would write 11 of the psalms. (Numbers 16 for whole story on Korah.)

“This psalm is an encouragement to the godly who are haunted by the power and influence of the rich. The problem of the prosperity of the wicked is difficult, but the psalmist has given us a ray of light as to the final resolution... by the convention of a *wisdom* psalm which includes question, observation of life, proverbial conclusion, metaphor, and personification.” *The Riddles of Psalm 49*: taken from *Expositor’s Bible Commentary*

Theme – Wisely Not Trusting in Earthly Wealth!

Who is the psalmist speaking to? What method of communication is he using?

What is the riddle?

What does he mean by verses 7-9?

How is verse 10 proven true?

Why does the psalmist compare the pompous man to a beast **twice**?

What is the foolish confidence in verse 13? Why do people approve?

What does their foolish confidence gain them?

What does this psalmist present as Godly wisdom?

Where else do we see this in the Bible: Proverbs 3:5-6

Matthew 19:23-24

1 Timothy 6:6-10

Philippians 4:10-20

Luke 18:9-14

Hebrews 13:5

Real Life Application

Why is money such a temptation?

Have you ever struggled with the temptation to put your trust in earthly goods instead of God?

When is the temptation the strongest for you – during good times or bad?

Do you think this temptation is worse for us today than it was in the psalmist's day?

Do riches and wealth really gain us anything eternally?

How can we keep ourselves firmly rooted in Christ instead of cash?

What is one thing you can do this week to work on putting your entire trust in Christ?