

Psalm 49

*To the maestro
from the sons of Korah:
a song to sing and strum*

Listen to me, all peoples of the earth:
All the inhabitants of all the world,
Both those of lowly birth and high degree,
And rich and poor alike, give ear to me.

My mouth speaks wisdom, and within my heart
I meditate on understanding's way:
I tune my ear to a proverb to say,
And I expound my riddle with the harp!

Why should I fear when evil days are here,
When wicked men surround me to deceive?
These men have put their trust in their own wealth,
And in the greatness of that wealth they boast!

A man cannot redeem his brother, or
Give unto God the ransom for his life:
The ransom for his life is of great cost
And he shall cease forever without it!

So that he should live on forever more,
And should not see the pit where dead men lie,
For he shall see that even wise men die
The foolish and the stupid also die.

They leave their wealth for other folk to use:
The grave becomes their everlasting home:
As generations come and pass away,
They call the lands they own by their own names!

Man, in his worthiness, cannot abide,
But he is like the beasts that are cut off:
This is the way, the folly of mere men,
And of their offspring who approve their words.

They are like sheep en route to Hades' door,
And Death will be their shepherd evermore:
The upright shall rule them when morning comes:
Their bodies are consumed by Hades' shades!

They will not live in their lofty abodes
But God will rescue me from Hades' pow'r,
And He will take hold of me in His hand.
[I know my soul is always safe with Him.]

Don't be afraid, when someone is made rich,
And when the glory of his house grows more:
He cannot take it with him when he dies:
His glory won't go with him to the grave!

For, when he lived, his soul was richly blessed
And people praise you when your plans go well:
He shall pass on the way his fathers did
And they shall never see the light again!

Man in his worthiness does not know this,
But he is like the beasts that are cut off.
[So do not be afraid but trust in God,
For wisdom comes to us from God above!]

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