

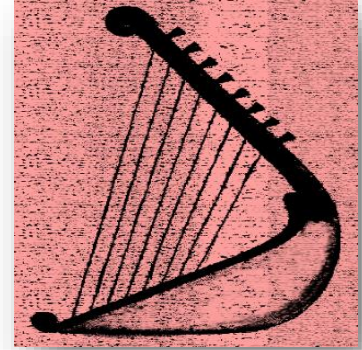
PSALM 49 vs 1

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Title: For the Chief musician, A Psalm for the Sons of Korah – a joyful and reverent Psalm; similar to the previous; the poet sings accompanied with his harp; of the despicable character of those who trust in their wealth.

Divisions: The first four verses are a preface (1-4); next all fear of great oppressors is removed when remembering their end and folly (5-12); next we hear an expression of wonder (13); the contrast of the ungodly and the right in their future (14-15); and lesson of the whole is given in an critical form (16-20); note verses 12 and 20, also the two Selahs -- Charles Spurgeon.



For the Chief musician,

A Psalm of the sons of Korah

¹ Hear this all peoples, give ear all inhabitants of the world.

² both low and high, rich and poor together.

³ My mouth will speak wisdom, and the meditation of my heart understanding.

⁴ I turn my ear to a proverb; I disclose on my lyre my riddle.

Think about it: In these four verses the poet-prophet calls all humanity to listen to his didactic hymn, and of course, to sing along; sons and daughters of great men; and children of poverty who pass one another daily on the streets, all those who will one day join one another in the grave.

⁵ Why should I fear in the days of evil? When the crimes of my foes surround me,

⁶ even those who lean on their wealth; and on their abundant riches boast.

⁷ none can by any means redeem **his brother, nor give to God a ransom **for him**.**

⁸ For redemption of **their souls is costly; and wealth ceases forever (to ever be sufficient)**

⁹ that he should live forever and not see the pit.

¹⁰ For he sees wise men die; the stupid and the senseless also perish; and leave to others their wealth;

¹¹ **they secretly think their houses are forever; their dwelling place to all generations; they call after their own name their lands.**

¹² **But man however splendid will not endure, he is like the beast that will perish.**

Think about it: He is but a lodger for an hour, and does not stay the whole night; even when he dwells in marble halls, his notice to quit is written out. Eminence is always in imminent peril. The hero of the hour, lasts... for an hour. He is not like sheep, preserved by the great Shepherd, but like the hunted beast which is doomed to die.

13 This is the way of fools, and those come after them who approve their sayings.

Selah, pause and think about it: Their vain confidences are not casual aberrations from the path of wisdom, but their way, their usual and regular course; their whole life is regulated by such nonsense. Their life-path is essential folly. They are ingrained fools. From first to last brutishness is their characteristic, groveling stupidity, their leading trait. Those who follow them in descent follow them in folly, quote their worldly maxims, and accept their mad career as the most prudent mode of life.

14 as sheep they are laid in the grave; death will shepherd them: and the upright will rule over them in the morning. Their beauty will waste away in the grave, far from their lofty dwelling.

15 But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave; because He will take me.

Selah, pause and think about it: From that temporary resting-place, we will come in due time, enlivened by divine energy; like our risen Head, we will not be held by the grave; redemption emancipated us from the slavery of death. No redemption could be found in riches, but God found it in the blood of His son.

16 Do not fear when a man gets rich, when the wealth of his house increases.

17 for when he dies, he will carry away nothing, not even his boast will descend after him.

18 though while he lived he blessed his soul, and they praised you for doing well for yourself,

19 he will go to the generation of his fathers; and they will never see the light.

20 man in splendor, without understanding; is like the beasts that perish.

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