

Psalm 49

JPS [\[Online\]](#)

The Evanescence of Wealth

(Ecclesiastes 5:8–20)

¹For the Leader; a Psalm of the sons of Korah. Hear this, all ye peoples; Give ear, all ye inhabitants of the world,

²Both low and high, Rich and poor together.

- 3**My mouth shall speak wisdom, And the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.
- 4**I will incline mine ear to a parable; I will open my dark saying upon the harp.
- 5**Wherefore should I fear in the days of evil, When the iniquity of my supplanters compasseth me about,
- 6**Of them that trust in their wealth, And boast themselves in the multitude of their riches?
- 7**No man can by any means redeem his brother, Nor give to God a ransom for him—
- 8**For too costly is the redemption of their soul, And must be let alone for ever—
- 9**That he should still live alway, That he should not see the pit.
- 10**For he seeth that wise men die, The fool and the brutish together perish, And leave their wealth to others.
- 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 abideth not in honour; He is like the beasts that perish.
- 13**This is the way of them that are foolish, And of those who after them approve their sayings. Selah
- 14**Like sheep they are appointed for the nether-world; Death shall be their shepherd; And the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; And their form shall be for the nether-world to wear away, That there be no habitation for it.
- 15**But God will redeem my soul from the power of the nether-world; For He shall receive me. Selah
- 16**Be not thou afraid when one waxeth rich, When the wealth of his house is increased;
- 17**For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away; His wealth shall not descend after him.
- 18**Though while he lived he blessed his soul: 'Men will praise thee, when thou shalt do well to thyself';
- 19**It shall go to the generation of his fathers; They shall never see the light.
- 20**Man that is in honour understandeth not; He is like the beasts that perish.