

Psalm 49
“Riches Cannot Redeem Men” *
To the chief Musician. A Psalm for the sons of Korah.

Read Psalm 49.

1) (vv. 1-4) The song begins with a command directing the “Sons of Korah” (the Levitical choir), to “sing” and get the audience’s attention. Who is to hear this song?

In verse 4, the writer states that his message is that of a “proverb”; and his song is that of “riddle”. Define the words, “proverb” and “riddle”:

2) (vv.5-13) Why do you suppose the writer begins with a question about his fear of those who trust in their wealth? What is there to fear? Summarize the “riddle” of these verses. What truths are mentioned?

Note: Verse 13 ends with the word “Selah”. Easton’s Bible Dictionary defines this as a “pause”, or “louder strain”. What would be the purpose of pausing or increasing the volume here?

3) (vv. 14) Following this pause, the writer emphasizes what will happen to the “foolish”. Summarize what he says will happen to those who trust in their wealth.

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4) (v.15) Here the writer declares what God will do for him. What is it? Why do you suppose he says this? What is the hope for those who trust in God? (Note the second pause at the end of this verse.)

What do the following teach us about redemption for those who trust in God rather than wealth? What can we know for sure? Romans 3:21-24, 5:12-21, 6:22-23; I Corinthians 2:9-12; 15:20-26, 51-57; Philippians 3:20-21; I Thessalonians 4:14-17; I John 5:13

5) (v. 16-18) What now does the writer declare? Compare this to v. 5.

What do the following teach about wealth, and the pursuit of it? Ecclesiastes 5:9-6:2; Matthew 6:19-21,24; I Timothy 6:6-10

6) (vv. 19-20) In closing, the writer concludes what? Why?

Why is it important for us to recall, repeat, and sing these things aloud?

When you have more time...

I Chronicles 9:19-24 mentions “Korah”, and the “Sons of Korah” and their responsibilities. Who was he, and who were they? What was their role? Using a Bible dictionary/Concordance, do a “word search” on the “Sons of Korah”. What additional psalms do you find that were written to them? What are the themes of each of these psalms or songs?