

Psalm 49

4. ⁸It is too great a price to pay,
none can thereto attain,
⁹Or that he might his life prolong,
or not in grave remain.
¹⁰They see wise men as well as fools
subject unto death's hands,
And being dead, strangers possess,
their goods, their rents, their lands.
5. ¹¹Their care is to build houses fair,
and so determine sure,
To make their name right great on earth,
forever to endure.
¹²Yet shall no man always enjoy
high honour, wealth and rest,
But shall at length taste of death's cup,
as well as the brute beast.
6. ¹³And though they try these foolish thoughts,
to be most lewd and vain,
Their children yet approve their talk,
and in like sin remain.
¹⁴As sheep unto the fold are brought,
so shall they into grave:
Death shall them eat, and in that day
the just shall lordship have.
7. Their image, and their royal port
shall fade, and quite decay:
When as from house to pit they pass
with woe and well away.
¹⁵But God will surely preserve me
from death and endless pain,
Because he will of his good grace
my soul receive again.
8. ¹⁶If any man wax wondrous rich,
fear not, I say, therefore,
Although the glory of his house
increaseth more and more.
¹⁷For when he dyeth, of all these things
nothing shall he receive:
His glory will not follow him:
his pomp will take her leave.
9. ¹⁸Yet in this life he taketh himself
the happiest under sin:
And others likewise flatter him,
saying, "All is well done":
¹⁹And presuppose he live as long
as did his fathers old,
Yet must he needs at length give place,
and be brought to death's fold.
10. ²⁰Thus man to honour God hath called,
yet doth he not consider,
But like brute beasts, so doth he live,
which turn to dust and powder.