

Psalm 49: Riches

- Author: Sons of Korah
- Genre: Wisdom
- Theme: The Certainty of Death & the Hope of Redemption
- Memory Tip: the 49er's

1

Psalm 49: Riches

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah.

Listen (1-4)

- 1** Hear this, all peoples!
Give ear, all inhabitants of the world,
2 both low and high,
rich and poor together!
3 My mouth shall speak wisdom;
the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.
4 I will incline my ear to a proverb;
I will solve my riddle to the music of the lyre.

2

Psalm 49: Riches

Don't Fear Rich Fools Who Threaten (5-11)

- 5** Why should I fear in times of trouble,
when the iniquity of those who cheat me surrounds me,
6 those who trust in their wealth
and boast of the abundance of their riches?
7 Truly no man can ransom another,
or give to God the price of his life,
8 for the ransom of their life is costly
and can never suffice,
9 that he should live on forever
and never see the pit.
10 For he sees that even the wise die;
the fool and the stupid alike must perish
and leave their wealth to others.
11 Their graves are their homes forever,
their dwelling places to all generations,
though they called lands by their own names.

Money cannot stop death

**The faithful dwell
with God, the rich
fool "dwells" in
the ground**

3

Psalm 49: Riches

Refrain (12)

- 12** Man in his pomp will not remain;
he is like the beasts that perish.

Wisdom (13-19)

- 13** This is the path of those who have foolish confidence;
yet after them people approve of their boasts. *Selah*
14 Like sheep they are appointed for Sheol;
death shall be their shepherd,
and the upright shall rule over them in the morning.
Their form shall be consumed in Sheol, with no place to dwell.
15 But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol,
for he will receive me. *Selah*

Psalm 23:1

4

Psalm 49: Riches

¹⁶ Be not afraid when a man becomes rich,
when the glory of his house increases.
¹⁷ For when he dies he will carry nothing away;
his glory will not go down after him.
¹⁸ For though, while he lives, he counts himself blessed
—and though you get praise when you do well for yourself—
¹⁹ his soul will go to the generation of his fathers,
who will never again see light.

**The rich are powerless
in the face of death**

²⁰ Man in his pomp yet without understanding
is like the beasts that perish.

Refrain (20)

Compare the eternal
dwelling of the rich
fool with the faithful
(Psalms 42-48)

5

Psalm 49: Riches

⁷ Truly no man can ransom another,
or give to God the price of his life,
⁸ for the ransom of their life is costly
and can never suffice,
⁹ that he should live on forever
and never see the pit.

Mark 10:45

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, **and**
to give his life as a ransom for many.”

6

Psalm 49: Riches

¹⁴ Like sheep they are appointed for Sheol;
death shall be their shepherd,
and the upright shall rule over them in the morning.
Their form shall be consumed in Sheol, with no place to dwell.
¹⁵ But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol,
for he will receive me.

Psalm 16:9-11

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being
rejoices;
my flesh also dwells secure.
¹⁰ **For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,**
or let your holy one see corruption.
¹¹ You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

7

Psalm 50: Covenant

- Author: Asaph
- Occasion: unknown
- Genre: Communal repentance

8

Psalm 50: Covenant

A psalm of Asaph.

God is coming in judgment (1-6)

1 The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.
2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.
3 Our God comes; he does not keep silence; ^[a] before him is a devouring fire, around him a mighty tempest.
4 He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people:
5 "Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"
6 The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge! *Selah*

El, Elohim, YHWH speaks

Psalm 48:2
 His holy mountain, ² beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King.

witnesses
 defendants
 judge

[Psalm 50:3](#) Or May our God come, and not keep silence

9

Psalm 50: Covenant

Judgment on the Worshipers (7-15)

7 "Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, I will testify against you. I am God, your God.
8 Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you; your burnt offerings are continually before me.
9 I will not accept a bull from your house or goats from your folds.
10 For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.
11 I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine.
12 "If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are mine.
13 Do I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of goats?
14 Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, ^[b] and perform your vows to the Most High,
15 and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me."

[Psalm 50:14](#) Or Make thanksgiving your sacrifice to God

10

Echoes of the Shema

Deuteronomy 6:4,5

4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.
5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Isaiah 1:10,11

10 Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom! Give ear to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah!
11 "What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the LORD; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of well-fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats.

What God requires:

gratitude, obedience, trust

Psalm 50: Covenant

Judgment on the Worshipers (7-15)

7 "Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, I will testify against you. I am God, your God.
8 Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you; your burnt offerings are continually before me.
9 I will not accept a bull from your house or goats from your folds.
10 For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.
11 I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine.
12 "If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are mine.
13 Do I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of goats?
14 Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, ^[b] and perform your vows to the Most High,
15 and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me."

Hebrews 13:14-16

14 For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. **15** Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. **16** Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

[Psalm 50:14](#) Or Make thanksgiving your sacrifice to God

11

Psalm 50: Covenant

Judgment on the Wicked Hypocrite (16-23)

16 But to the wicked God says: "What right have you to recite my statutes or take my covenant on your lips?
17 For you hate discipline, and you cast my words behind you.
18 If you see a thief, you are pleased with him, and you keep company with adulterers.
19 "You give your mouth free rein for evil, and your tongue frames deceit.
20 You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your own mother's son.
21 These things you have done, and I have been silent; you thought that ^[d] I was one like yourself. But now I rebuke you and lay the charge before you.
22 "Mark this, then, you who forget God, lest I tear you apart, and there be none to deliver!
23 The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me; to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God!"

The Ten Commandments

[Psalm 50:21](#) Or that the I am

12

Psalm 51: Repentance

- Author: David
- Occasion: After the prophet Nathan confronted him about his adultery with Bathsheba and murder of her husband Uriah
- Genre: Lament, Penitential
(Penitential Psalms: 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, 143)

13

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

Removal (1-9)

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.
5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.
6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.
7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Replacement (10-19)

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
11 Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.
13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.
14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.
15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.
16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem;
19 then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

16

Prayer for Pardon

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. **pesa'** – rebellion
2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, **awon** – vanity, empty, internal disharmony and cleanse me from my sin! **hata'a** – missing the mark

17

Prayer of Confession

3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.
5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. **Original Sin?**
6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

18

Prayer for Pardon

- 7 Purge me with **hyssop**, and I shall be clean; **Ex. 12:22; Lev. 15:51**
 wash me, and I shall be **whiter than snow.** **Isaiah 1:18**
- 8 Let me hear joy and gladness;
 let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
- 9 Hide your face from my sins,
 and blot out all my **iniquities.**

19

Prayer for Purity

- + 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
 and renew a right spirit within me.
- 11 Cast me not away from your presence,
 and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- + 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
 and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Bara - Genesis 1:1

1 Samuel 16:14

14 Now the **Spirit of the LORD** had departed from Saul,
 and an evil spirit from the **LORD** tormented him.

21

Promises to Teach and Worship

- 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
 and sinners will return to you.
- 14 Deliver me from **bloodguiltiness**, O God,
 O God of my salvation,
 and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.
- 15 O Lord, open my lips,
 and my mouth will declare your praise.
- 16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;
 you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
- + 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
 a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

22

Prayer for Zion

- 18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
 build up the walls of Jerusalem;
- 19 then will you delight in right sacrifices,
 in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;
 then bulls will be offered on your altar.

23

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

¹Have mercy on me,¹ O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
⁴Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.
⁵Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.
⁶Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
⁸Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Matthew 1:1-6

¹The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham...⁶ and Jesse the father of David the king. **And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah**

1 John 2:1-2

¹My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. **²He is the propitiation for our sins**, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

John 19:29

A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a **hyssop** branch and held it to his mouth.

24

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right¹¹ spirit within me.
¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

¹³Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.
¹⁴Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.
¹⁵O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

¹⁶For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

¹⁸Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem;
¹⁹then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Luke 19:9-14

⁹He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

25

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right¹¹ spirit within me.
¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

¹³Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.
¹⁴Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.
¹⁵O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

¹⁶For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

¹⁸Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem;
¹⁹then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Repent

Redeem

Rebuild

1 John 1:8-10

⁸If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

If you want God's grace, all you need is need, all you need is nothing. But that kind of spiritual humility is hard to muster. We come to God saying, "Look at all I've done" or maybe "Look at all I've suffered." God, however, wants us to look to him – to just wash.

– Tim Keller

26

27