

Wisdom Instruction

Sons of Korah · Book II

"For the Chief Musician. A Psalm by the sons of Korah."

IN ONE SENTENCE



wealth cannot ransom anyone from death, so do not fear the rich, for God will redeem the psalmist from the grave.

Remember it: Forty-nine: no bank can ransom a soul; only God redeems from the grave.

MEMORY VERSE

But God will redeem my soul from the power of Sheol, for he will receive me. Selah.

Psalm 49:15 · World English Bible

HEBREW WORD

יִפְדֶּה

"redeem" · verse 7

In the Psalms: fourteen times, in 12 psalms

יִפְדֶּה means "redeem" or "ransom." The verb means to buy someone back by paying a price, as Israel redeemed its firstborn sons. No human payment is enough to buy a life back from death; only God can do it, and verse 15 says he will.

HOW THE PSALM MOVES

- 1–4** A call to all peoples to hear wisdom.
- 5–12** Riches cannot ransom a life from death.
- 13–15** Fools end in Sheol, but God redeems the psalmist.
- 16–20** Don't fear the rich; they carry nothing away.

MY NOTES



Listen. Hear Psalm 49 in the **Psalm Song** app, or free at ispress.de/psalms/49.

Didactic. Preached: a teaching psalm, a sermon meant to be heard, not sung.

Life Is Short

The Two Ways

FILL IN THE BLANKS

Wealth cannot _____ anyone from _____, so do not fear the rich, for God will redeem the psalmist from the _____.

CHECK YOURSELF

1. Who is told to listen to this psalm?

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ (A) Only the priests | ☐ (B) All peoples, low and high, rich and poor |
| ☐ (C) Only Israel's kings | ☐ (D) Only the young |

2. What do the foolish name after themselves?

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ (A) Their lands | ☐ (B) Their children |
| ☐ (C) Their cities | ☐ (D) Their cattle |

3. What will the rich man carry away when he dies?

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ☐ (A) His gold | ☐ (B) His glory |
| ☐ (C) Nothing | ☐ (D) His name |

TALK IT OVER

1. Why can't wealth buy anyone's way out of death?

2. What hope does verse 15 give about God's power over the grave?

3. How does this psalm challenge the way our culture admires the rich?

IN YOUR OWN WORDS: WHAT DOES PSALM 49 TEACH?

- ☐ I listened to the song
- ☐ I can say verse 15 by heart

- ☐ I can say what it teaches
- ☐ I know the picture word

Answers: Blanks: ransom · death · grave · Check yourself: 1. B (vv. 1-2) · 2. A (v. 11) · 3. C (v. 17)