

SONGS FOR SUMMER

THE BOOK OF PSALMS

Psalm 49 (ESV)

Hear this, all peoples!

Give ear, all inhabitants of the world,

²both low and high:

rich and poor together!

³My mouth shall speak wisdom;
the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.

⁴I will incline my ear to a proverb;

I will solve my riddle to the music of the lyre.

⁵Why should I fear in times of trouble,
when the iniquity of those who cheat me surrounds me,

⁶those who trust in their wealth
and boast of the abundance of their riches?

⁷Truly no man can ransom another,
or give to God the price of his life,

⁸or the ransom of their life is costly
and can never suffice,

⁹that he should live on forever
and never see the pit.

¹⁰For he sees that even the wise die;
the fool and the stupid alike must perish

and leave their wealth to others.

¹¹Their graves are their homes forever,
their dwelling places to all generations,
though they called lands by their own names.

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

¹³This is the path of those who have foolish confidence;
yet after them people approve of their boasts. *Selah*

¹⁴Like 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.

¹⁵But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol,
for he will receive me. *Selah*

¹⁶Be not afraid when a man becomes rich,
rich,
when the glory of his house increases.

¹⁷For when he dies he will carry nothing away;
his glory will not go down after him.

¹⁸For though, while he lives, he counts himself blessed
—and though you get praise when you do well for yourself—

¹⁹his soul will go to the generation of his fathers,
who will never again see light.

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

Next Week: Psalm 50

June 9, 2019

TALK SHEET

1. Just like there are various genres of music, there are also different types of Psalms. How would you classify Psalm 49? Does its classification change the way that you read it?
2. What are some of the comparisons and contrasts made in Psalm 49. Which ones are most interesting to you?
3. What is it about death that changes our perspective on life?
4. Compare verses 7-9 with verse 15. What (or Who) makes this possible?
5. Do you think that Psalm 49 indicates that wealth is bad? Why or why not?
6. Which of these verses do you need most right now?
7. Pray for those who need hope beyond the grave.