

Psalms 49:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Nevertheless man being in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts that perish.

Analysis

The verdict: 'Nevertheless man being in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts that perish.' Despite status, humans share animals' mortality. 'Abideth not' (lo yalin) suggests not spending the night--honor is temporary, like a guest who departs. The comparison to beasts emphasizes physical death common to all creatures.

Historical Context

This verse challenges human pretension by linking humanity with the animal kingdom in mortality. While humans bear God's image, they share with beasts the experience of physical death.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. Why is comparing humans to 'beasts that perish' both humbling and instructive?
2. What does this verse teach about the limits of earthly honor?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	נִמְשָׁל	כִּי	בְּהִנְדִּים	וְתִּתְהַלֵּל
Nevertheless	man	being	in honour	
H120	H3366	H1077	abideth	not he is like
			H3885	H4911
				the beasts
				H929
כִּי	נִמְשָׁל	כִּי	בְּהִנְדִּים	וְתִּתְהַלֵּל
that	perish			
	H1820			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 39:5 (Parallel theme): Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Selah.

Psalms 49:20 (Parallel theme): Man that is in honour, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish.

Psalms 82:7 (Parallel theme): But ye shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes.

Ecclesiastes 9:12 (Parallel theme): For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them.