

Psalms 49:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Though while he lived he blessed his soul: and men will praise thee, when thou doest well to thyself.

Analysis

The self-deception: 'Though while he lived he blessed his soul: and men will praise thee, when thou doest well to thyself.' The rich person congratulates himself, and others add their flattery. Self-blessing and social praise combine to reinforce the illusion that wealth equals blessing and success equals divine favor.

Historical Context

Ancient (and modern) cultures often equated visible prosperity with divine blessing. The wealthy received social praise that reinforced their self-satisfaction, creating echo chambers of mutual affirmation.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does self-congratulation and social praise reinforce spiritual blindness?
2. What is the difference between genuine blessing and self-blessing?

Interlinear Text

כִּי פָּשׁוֹנִי בְּתִי יְהוָה יְבָרֵךְ וְיִהְלֹךְ בְּיִדְךָ וְיִפְרָאֶה
H3588 his soul Though while he lived he blessed and men will praise H3588
H5315 H2416 H1288 H3034

תִּשְׁעַט יְבָלָה
thee when thou doest well H3190

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 29:19 (Blessing): And it come to pass, when he heareth the words of this curse, that he bless himself in his heart, saying, I shall have peace, though I walk in the imagination of mine heart, to add drunkenness to thirst:

Luke 12:19 (Parallel theme): And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

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