

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

Psalms 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	נַפְשׁוֹ	בְּחַי יוֹ	יְבָרֵךְ	וְיִזְכְּרוּ	כִּי
H3588	his soul	Though while he lived	he blessed	and men will praise	H3588
	H5315	H2416	H1288	H3034	
	תֵּיטֵב יְיָ	לָךְ:			
	thee when thou doest well	H0			
	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.