

Psalms 49:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Both low and high, rich and poor, together.

Analysis

Both 'low and high, rich and poor, together' are summoned to hear. The wisdom offered applies across all social distinctions. Wealth and status cannot exempt anyone from the realities the psalm addresses. Death and judgment are great equalizers before which all human distinctions fade.

Historical Context

Ancient societies were highly stratified, with wealth determining status and opportunity. This verse's leveling address challenged social pretensions by insisting all face the same ultimate realities.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Why is it significant that low and high, rich and poor are addressed 'together'?
2. How does mortality equalize what life's circumstances distinguish?

Interlinear Text

וְאֶבְיוֹן: עַשׂ יְרֵא מִתְּבָנִים אֲלֵם גָּמָם
H1571 Both low H120 H1571 Both low H376 together H3162 rich H6223 and poor H34

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 62:9 (Parallel theme): Surely men of low degree are vanity, and men of high degree are a lie: to be laid in the balance, they are altogether lighter than vanity.

Proverbs 22:2 (Parallel theme): The rich and poor meet together: the LORD is the maker of them all.

Job 34:19 (Parallel theme): How much less to him that accepteth not the persons of princes, nor regardeth the rich more than the poor? for they all are the work of his hands.

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