

Psalms 49:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches;

Analysis

The false confidence of the wealthy: 'They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches.' 'Trust' (batach) and 'boast' (halal) reveal the heart's orientation. Wealth becomes their security and identity. The psalmist contrasts this misplaced trust with the reality death brings.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern cultures often equated wealth with divine blessing and assumed riches could provide security against all threats. The psalm exposes this illusion.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. In what ways might we 'trust in wealth' without realizing it?

2. What is the difference between using wealth wisely and trusting in it?

Interlinear Text

הַבֹּטְחִים	עַל	חֵילָם	וּבְרַב	עַשְׂרֵם
They that trust	H5921	in their wealth	themselves in the multitude	of their riches
H982		H2428	H7230	H6239

וַתְּהַלֵּל:
and boast
H1984

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 52:7 (Faith): Lo, this is the man that made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches, and strengthened himself in his wickedness.

Jeremiah 9:23 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:

1 Timothy 6:17 (Faith): Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

Mark 10:24 (Faith): And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!