

Psalm 62:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The vanity of human stations—'men of low degree' and 'men of high degree'—levels all humanity before God. Being 'lighter than vanity' when weighed in balances indicates complete worthlessness apart from God. This echoes Ecclesiastes's 'vanity of vanities' (Ecclesiastes 1:2) and anticipates Paul's teaching that all have sinned (Romans 3:23), showing human merit cannot bear weight in divine scales.

Historical Context

Ancient balances/scales were used for both commerce and symbolic justice. The image of weighing humans and finding them wanting anticipates Daniel's interpretation of Belshazzar's doom: 'Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting' (Daniel 5:27).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing all humans as 'lighter than vanity' affect both pride and despair?
 2. What alone has weight/worth in God's balances?

Interlinear Text

מִהָּ בְּלִ	בְּמַזְגֵּן יְמִ	לְעֵל וְתִּמְהָ	אִישׁ
and men	in the balance	to be laid	H1992
H376	H3976	H5927	lighter than vanity

they are altogether
H3162

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.

Isaiah 40:17 (Parallel theme): All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity.

Isaiah 40:15 (Parallel theme): Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing.

Psalms 118:9 (Parallel theme): It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.

Psalms 39:11 (Parallel theme): When thou with rebukes dost correct man for iniquity, thou makest his beauty to consume away like a moth: surely every man is vanity. Selah.

Psalms 116:11 (Parallel theme): I said in my haste, All men are liars.

Romans 3:4 (Parallel theme): God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

1 Samuel 18:5 (Parallel theme): And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

1 Samuel 23:12 (Parallel theme): Then said David, Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul? And the LORD said, They will deliver thee up.

2 Samuel 15:31 (Parallel theme): And one told David, saying, Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom. And David said, O LORD, I pray thee, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness.