

Opening Dark Saying; Psalms 49 Verses 5-20
To the chief Musician, A Psalm for the sons of Korah.

Ps 49:1 "Hear this, all ye people; give ear, all ye inhabitants of the world: 2 Both low and high, rich and poor, together. 3 My mouth shall speak of wisdom; and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding. 4 I will incline mine ear to a parable: I will open my dark saying upon the harp."

Ps 49:5 "Wherefore should I fear in the days of evil, when the iniquity of my heels shall compass me about? 6 They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; 7 None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him: 8 (For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth forever:) 9 That he should still live forever, and not see corruption."

We are living in days of evil, where the world is trusting in the riches of the earth, for eternal salvation and eternal life. The lost go about boasting and proclaiming a false salvation story. They are floundering in the miry bogs of the riches of the earth, and it is proclaiming to us, the saved, what is seen in **1Jo 2:16 "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."**

We should always remember: the world of the lost has no message for life after death, and no message of what is happening while the body is in the grave. Their message today is life is all about me and what I can get out of it, giving no consideration of the consequence of an eternal life without Christ.

This leads us to verse 9 **"That he should still live forever, and not see corruption."** Verse 9 is the completion of the thought of verse 7. Thus, we understand that no man can purchase eternal redemption, for the soul and body of himself, or another. Why? Because, the eternal remission of sins and eternal life are the gift of God, to those for whom Christ died upon the cross.

8 (For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth forever:) This is a parenthetical thought that simply explains what comes before and after it. The redemption of the soul is precious because it took the perfect love of God to accomplish it. Its price is far above the prize of money or earthly wealth. It took the perfected love that Jesus had for all of God's people, to come to earth in a prepared body and to die upon the cross, to pay the debt of sin we could not pay.

"and it ceaseth forever:" How has it ceased forever? It has ceased forever because there is no longer a sacrifice for sins. What do you mean? When Jesus yielded up the ghost on the cross, the salvation of all of God's people was finished; and there is no other sacrifice that can be made, which will give eternal remission of sins and grant eternal life with Christ.

Remember; the New Testament Church of Jesus Christ has the message of truth, in bible teachings, and in scriptural hymns, of the eternal remission of sins, and the gift of eternal life in Christ, and of an eternal home which has no sin, or allurements, to tempt us to turn from our worship of God, of Christ, and of the Holy Ghost. The New Testament Church proclaims, according to the Word of God, there is only one way to be saved eternally, which is through Christ, the eternal Saviour, and the open door. Jesus is not a Saviour in time only, but a Saviour forever.

10 "For he seeth that wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others. 11 Their inward thought is, that their houses shall continue forever, and their dwelling places to all generations; they call their lands after their own names. 12 Nevertheless man being in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts that perish. 13 This their way is their folly: yet their posterity approve their sayings. Selah."

Our Saviour sees those who trust in wealth and do not believe in life after death. They believe that they will continue forever by passing their riches down to their children. They defy our Creator God by naming their possessions after themselves, which is a form of idolatry, forgetting that the heavens, and the earth, are God's own creation, and they are for the fulfillment of his will and purpose to bring eternal life to God's chosen people.

Remember the definition of a fool, which scripture gives in ***Ps 53:1 "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good."*** The unsaved of the world proclaim that there is no God. They do this by word and action. They also raise their children to believe the same things. This is why it is necessary that we preach the truth of God with clarity, and proclaim the eternal salvation wrought by Jesus Christ. It is why we preach the resurrection of the dead, both saved and lost. We preach the saved go to the eternal abode that Christ has prepared for them. We preach the lost go to the eternal lake of fire to burn and die forever. This message of the gospel of Jesus Christ will stand as condemnation to those who do not believe.

14 Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall consume in the grave from their dwelling. 15 But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah.

The unsaved of the world are the "***they***" in verse 14. They shall die naturally, their souls unchanged, and when the eternal resurrection comes, the saved shall have dominion over the unsaved. The bodies of the unsaved shall not be changed to incorruption and shall continue in immortal death and darkness. All that they believed to be beautiful in life will be consumed by fire and burned to nothingness.

We have the New Testament scriptures to prove that God did redeem the Spirit of Jesus from the grave, because Jesus tells us that on the cross in ***Lu 23:46 "And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost."*** The Spirit of Jesus went immediately back to heaven, from whence it came, because God accepted the finished work of Jesus in eternal redemption of sins for all of God's people. In His resurrection, the body of Jesus, after about forty days, has returned to the immortal heaven from whence He came. This sets an example for us to believe in. Just as the Spirit of Jesus immediately went to be with God in heaven, so shall our spirits go to be with God as soon as the natural body dies. Our bodies will see corruption because they are sinful bodies, but in the eternal resurrection of the dead in Christ, our bodies will be raised incorruptible and immortal and go to be with Christ forever.

16 Be not thou afraid when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased; 17 For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him. 18 Though while he lived he blessed his soul: and men will praise thee, when thou doest well to thyself. 19 He shall go to the generation of his fathers; they shall never see light. 20 Man that is in honour, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish.

We see the today version of these verse in the New Testament in: ***2Pe 2:9-17; 9 "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished: 10 But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. 11 Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord. 12 But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption; 13 And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots***

they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you; 14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: 15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; 16 But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet. 17 These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever." It is easily discerned from this chapter, and this text, the eternal darkness that will be in the eternal life of all not saved by God's grace.

Salvation and eternal life are brought to light in the redemption, of the saved by grace people, to an eternal day as seen in: *Re 22:1-5; 1 "And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: 4 And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. 5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever."*

Thinking of the revelations of this chapter to us: we get the message; no matter how dark the way seems; no matter how many enemies we see surrounding us, who are seeking to destroy our testimony of faith in Christ, let us not despair, but rather, be encouraged to proclaim and sing like the Psalmist in this Psalm. We are given a New Testament proclamation of this Psalm in: *1Ti 6:3-19.*"

May God grant us the strength to proclaim, and sing the new song, of the eternal salvation and eternal life, which we have in Jesus Christ. Let us watch with carefulness, lest we be ensnared in the temptations, of the riches of the world, and the pleasures of sin. What a day that will be, when we are called to go to the place Jesus has gone to prepare for us. Hallelujah! Praise, ye the Lord!