

Why should I fear when evil days come?

Psalm 49

Slides from John Percival's sermon at the evening service
Sunday 5th May 2024

BLUE ZONES

LOMA LINDA
UNITED STATES

NICOYA
COSTA RICA

SARDINIA
ITALY

ICARIA
GREECE

OKINAWA
JAPAN

Blue zones are regions where a higher than usual number of people live much longer than average. There are five blue zone areas in the world.

1. The futility of trusting in wealth (v7-12)

Psalm 49v7-9

- ⁷ No one can redeem the life of another
or give to God a ransom for them—
- ⁸ the ransom for a life is costly,
no payment is ever enough—
- ⁹ so that they should live on forever
and not see decay.

Psalm 49v11

Their tombs will remain their houses forever,
their dwellings for endless generations,
though they had named lands after themselves.

Psalm 49v10

For all can see that the wise die,
that the foolish and the senseless also perish,
leaving their wealth to others.

Psalm 49v12

People, despite their wealth, do not endure;
they are like the beasts that perish.

1 Timothy 6v17-19

¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

2. The wisdom of trusting in God (v13-20)

Psalm 49v13

This is the fate of those who trust in themselves,
and of their followers, who approve their sayings.

Psalm 49v15

But God will redeem me from the realm of the dead;
he will surely take me to himself.

Daniel 12v3

Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

Psalm 49v15

But God will redeem me from the realm of the dead

Psalm 49v7, 8

⁷ No one can redeem the life of another...

⁸ the ransom for a life is costly,
no payment is ever enough—

Psalm 49v7, 8

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Psalm 49v15

But God will redeem me from the realm of the dead

1 Peter 1v18-19

¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

Psalm 49v16-19

- ¹⁶ Do not be overawed when others grow rich,
when the splendour of their houses increases;
- ¹⁷ for they will take nothing with them when they die,
their splendour will not descend with them.
- ¹⁸ Though while they live they count themselves blessed—
and people praise you when you prosper—
- ¹⁹ they will join those who have gone before them,
who will never again see the light of life.

Psalm 49v20

People who have wealth but lack understanding
are like the beasts that perish.

Psalm 49v15

But God will redeem me from the realm of the dead;
he will surely take me to himself.