



*To the choirmaster.*

*A Psalm of the Sons of Korah.*

**1-4**

Hear this, all peoples! Give ear, all inhabitants of the **world** – <sup>2</sup> you sons of Adam, you sons of man, together rich and poor!

חֵלֶד  
(*cheled*)  
“world / mole”

<sup>3</sup> My mouth speaks wisdom...

... the meditation of my heart understanding.

<sup>4</sup> I incline my ear to a **proverb** ...

... I will reveal my **riddle** with the lyre.

משל  
(*mashal*)  
“proverb / parable”  
“allegory”

חידה  
(*chidah*)  
“figure / riddle”

**5-13**

Why should I fear in evil days, when crime comes round me at my heels? <sup>6</sup> Those who trust in their wealth and boast of the abundance of their riches [are the ones who should be in fear]. <sup>7</sup> Surely they can **redeem** no man, or give to God his **ransom**. <sup>8</sup> For to redeem their life is too costly and can never suffice. <sup>9</sup> Will he yet live forever and not see the pit? <sup>10</sup> For he sees the wise die. The fool and the brutish alike must perish and abandon their wealth to others. <sup>11</sup> Their grave is their home forever, their dwelling for all generations, though their names had been called on earth. <sup>12</sup> Man in his **pomp** will not “**spend the night**”. He is like the beasts that perish. <sup>13</sup> This is the way of the fool. Yet their followers approve of what they say! *Selah*

לין  
(*leen*)

## 14-15

Like sheep they are appointed for *sheol*; death shall shepherd them, and the upright shall rule over them in the morning. Their **image** shall be **worn out** in *sheol*, with no place to dwell. <sup>15</sup> But God will ransom my soul from the hand of *sheol*, for He will receive me. *Selah*

## 16-20

Be not afraid when a man becomes rich, when the glory of his house increases. <sup>17</sup> For when he dies he will carry nothing away; his glory will not go down after him. <sup>18</sup> For though, while he lives, he counts himself blessed – and though you get praise when you do well for yourself – <sup>19</sup> his soul will go to the generation of his fathers, who will never again see light. <sup>20</sup> Man in his **pomp**, when he does not discern, is like the beasts that perish.

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## REFERENCES:

### Verse 1

**Leviticus 11:29** “Now these are to you the unclean among the swarming things which swarm on the earth: the mole (חֹלֵד, *choled*), and the mouse, and the great lizard in its kinds.”

### Verse 4

**Proverbs 1:6** To understand a proverb (מִשָּׁל, *mashal*) and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles (חִידָה, *chidah*).

**Numbers 12:8** “With [Moses] I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles (חִידָה, *chidah*), and he beholds the form of Adonai...”

### Verse 7

**Exodus 21:30** If a ransom is imposed on him, then he shall give for the redemption of his life whatever is imposed on him.

### Verse 12

**Genesis 19:2** And he said, “My lords, please turn aside to your servant’s house and spend the night (לֵיָן, *leen*) and wash your feet. Then you may rise up early and go on your way.” They said, “No; we will spend the night (לֵיָן, (*leen*) in the town square.” (1<sup>st</sup> app.)

### Verse 13

**Luke 12:20** “But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’”

### Verse 14

**Genesis 18:12** So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I am worn out (בָּלָה, *balah*), and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?” (1<sup>st</sup> app.)

**Deuteronomy 8:4** Your clothing did not wear out (בָּלָה, *balah*) on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. (2<sup>nd</sup> app.)