Psalm 49

4. It is too great a price to pay,
   none can thereto attain,
   Or that he might his life prolong,
   or not in grave remain.
   They see wise men as well as fools
   subject unto death’s hands,
   And being dead, strangers possess,
   their goods, their rents, their lands.

5. Their care is to build houses fair,
   and so determine sure,
   To make their name right great on earth,
   forever to endure.
   Yet shall no man always enjoy
   high honour, wealth and rest,
   But shall at length taste of death’s cup,
   as well as the brute beast.

6. And though they try these foolish thoughts,
   to be most lewd and vain,
   Their children yet approve their talk,
   and in like sin remain.
   As sheep unto the fold are brought,
   so shall they into grave:
   Death shall them eat, and in that day
   the just shall lordship have.

7. Their image, and their royal port
   shall fade, and quite decay:
   When as from house to pit they pass
   with woe and well away.
   But God will surely preserve me
   from death and endless pain,
   Because he will of his good grace
   my soul receive again.

8. If any man wax wondrous rich,
   fear not, I say, therefore,
   Although the glory of his house
   increaseth more and more.
   For when he dyeth, of all these things
   nothing shall he receive:
   His glory will not follow him:
   his pomp will take her leave.

9. Yet in this life he taketh himself
   the happiest under sin:
   And others likewise flatter him,
   saying, “All is well done”:
   And presuppose he live as long
   as did his fathers old,
   Yet must he needs at length give place,
   and be brought to death’s fold.

10. Thus man to honour God hath called,
    yet doth he not consider,
    But like brute beasts, so doth he live,
    which turn to dust and powder.