

A reading from the Hebrew Bible, commonly referred to as the Old Testament, Psalm 49

Hear this, all you peoples;
 give ear, all inhabitants of the world,
both low and high,
 rich and poor together.
My mouth shall speak wisdom;
 the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.
I will incline my ear to a proverb;
 I will solve my riddle to the music of the harp.

Why should I fear in times of trouble,
 when the iniquity of my persecutors surrounds me,
those who trust in their wealth
 and boast of the abundance of their riches?
Truly, no ransom avails for one's life,
 there is no price one can give to God for it.
For the ransom of life is costly,
 and can never suffice,
that one should live on forever
 and never see the grave.

When we look at the wise, they die;
 fool and dolt perish together
 and leave their wealth to others.
Their graves are their homes for ever,
 their dwelling-places to all generations,
 though they named lands their own.
Mortals cannot abide in their pomp;
 they are like the animals that perish.

A reading from the Gospel According to Luke 12:13-21

Someone in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.' But he said to him, 'Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?' And he said to them, 'Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.' Then he told them a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.'