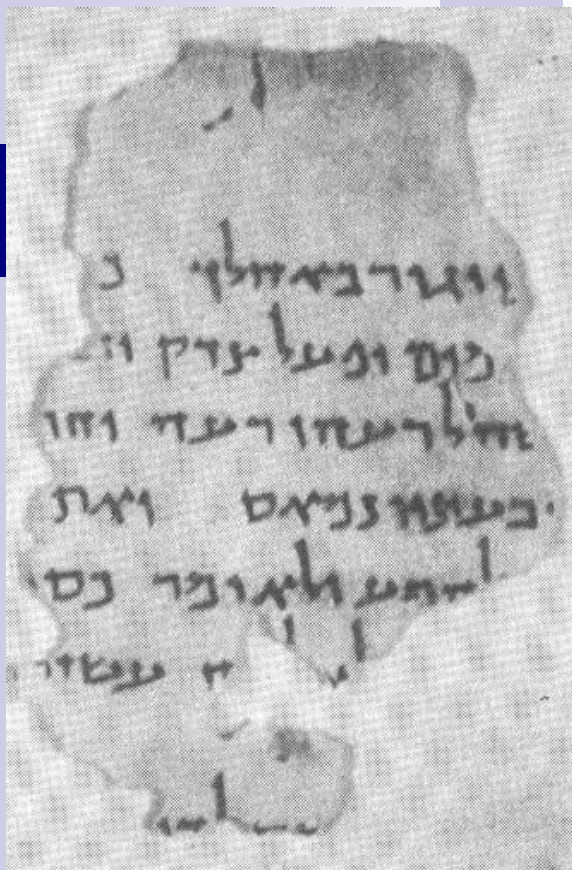


Fragment of Psalm 15
from Nahal Hever
100 B.C.–A.D. 70



PSALM 15

The Godly Person

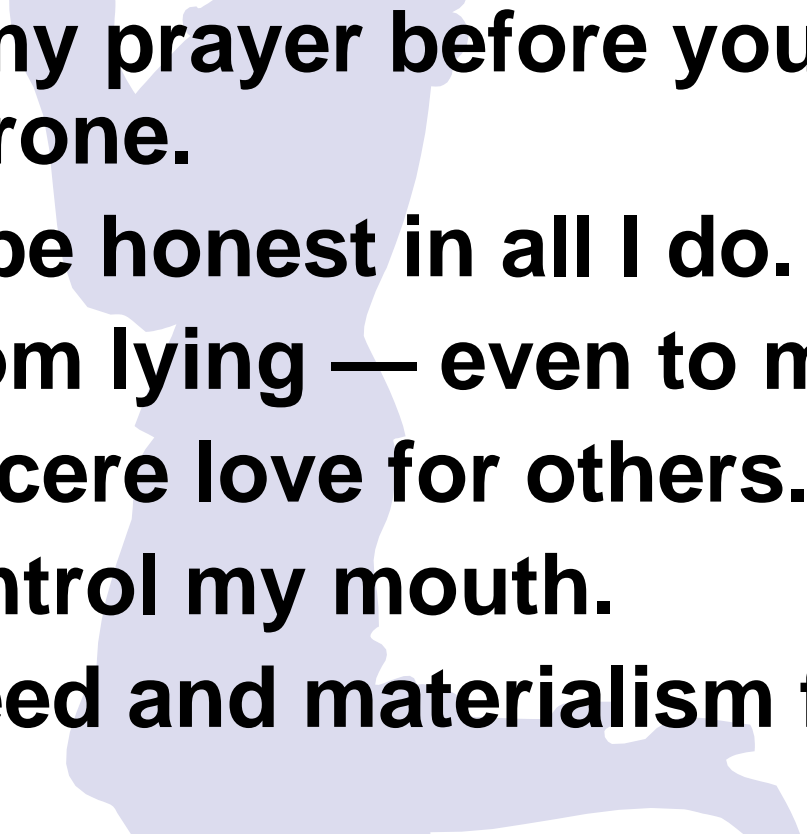
Introducing Psalm 15



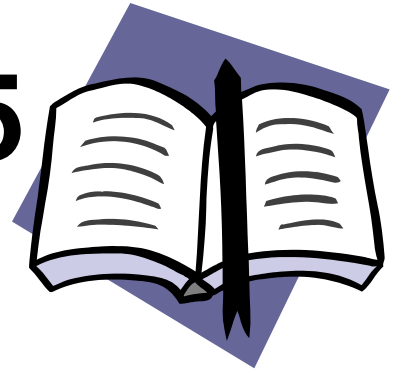
- **Instruction in godliness measured by the Law?**
- **An entrance liturgy for entering the Temple?**
- **A replica of the Ten Commandments?**
- **A wisdom psalm?**
- **The Old Testament's equivalent to the Epistle of James?**



Praying Psalm 15

- 
- **Lord, hear my prayer before your heavenly throne.**
 - **Help me to be honest in all I do.**
 - **Keep me from lying — even to myself.**
 - **Give me sincere love for others.**
 - **Help me control my mouth.**
 - **Remove greed and materialism from my heart.**

Understanding Psalm 15



- I. The Question (v. 1)**
- II. The Answer (vv. 2–5b)**
 - A. Integrity (2)**
 - B. Relationships (3–4b)**
 - C. Selflessness (4c–5b)**
- III. The Promise (v. 5c)**

Understanding Psalm 15



v. 1 – Rhetorical Questions

- Dramatic effect.
- Create interest; grab attention.
- Open a poem or stanza.



Understanding Psalm 15



v. 1 – Compare the Questions

- “abide”: habitará vs. “dwell”: morará



- “tent”: tabernáculo vs. “hill”: monte

Isaiah 33:14–16



14 Sinners in Zion are terrified; trembling has seized the godless. “Who among us can live with the consuming fire? Who among us can live with continual burning?” **15** He who walks righteously and speaks with sincerity, he who rejects unjust gain and shakes his hands so that they hold no bribe; he who stops his ears from hearing about bloodshed and shuts his eyes from looking upon evil; **16** he will dwell on the heights, his refuge will be the impregnable rock; his bread will be given *him*, his water will be sure.

John 4:20–24



20 “Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you *people* say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.”

23 “But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. **24 God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.**”

Understanding Psalm 15



v. 2 – “walks [anda] . . . works [pratica] . . . speaks [fala]”

- **Participles referring to characteristic or continuous actions.**
 - Sinless perfection?**
 - Salvation by works?**
 - Final sanctification?**
- **Psalm 15 is about sanctification, not salvation.**

James 2:14–17



14 What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? **15** If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, **16** and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,” and yet you do not give them what is necessary for *their* body, what use is that? **17** Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, *being* by itself.

James 2:14–17



*The faith that works
does not save,
but the faith that saves
works.*

Understanding Psalm 15



v. 2 – “in his heart”: no seu coração

- **Expected: “speaks truth with his lips”**
- **James 3:14**
- **Mark 7:20–23**



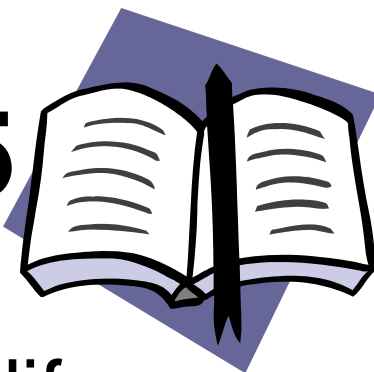
Understanding Psalm 15



v. 3 – “not [não] ... nor [nem] ... nor [nem]”

- **Permanent, objective negatives.**
- **Tried qualities and habitual actions.**
- **Not aiming for partial sanctification.**
- **Aiming at consistent behavior.**

Understanding Psalm 15



v. 3 – “does not slander”: não difama

- Walking around seeking tidbits of gossip.



- Behaving as a spy or conspirator.
- James 1:26–27; 3:1–12

Understanding Psalm 15



v. 3 – “neighbor [próximo] . . . friend [próximo]”

- **“Neighbor” = fellow human being**
 - Leviticus 19:18
 - Luke 10:30–37
- **“Friend” = closest relationships**
 - Leviticus 21:2
 - 1 Timothy 5:4, 8

Understanding Psalm 15



v. 4 – “In whose eyes a reprobate is despised”: A cujos olhos o réprobo é desprezado

- **“Reprobate” = rejected by God; vile.**
- **What was wrong with Samuel’s attitude when God rejected Saul?**
 - **1 Samuel 16:1**

Understanding Psalm 15



v. 4 – “swears to his own hurt”: aquele
que jura com dano seu

- **Both reasoned and rash promises.**
- **Must not continue if it hurts others, rather than oneself.**
- **Retraction with permission of the recipient.**

Proverbs 6:1–5

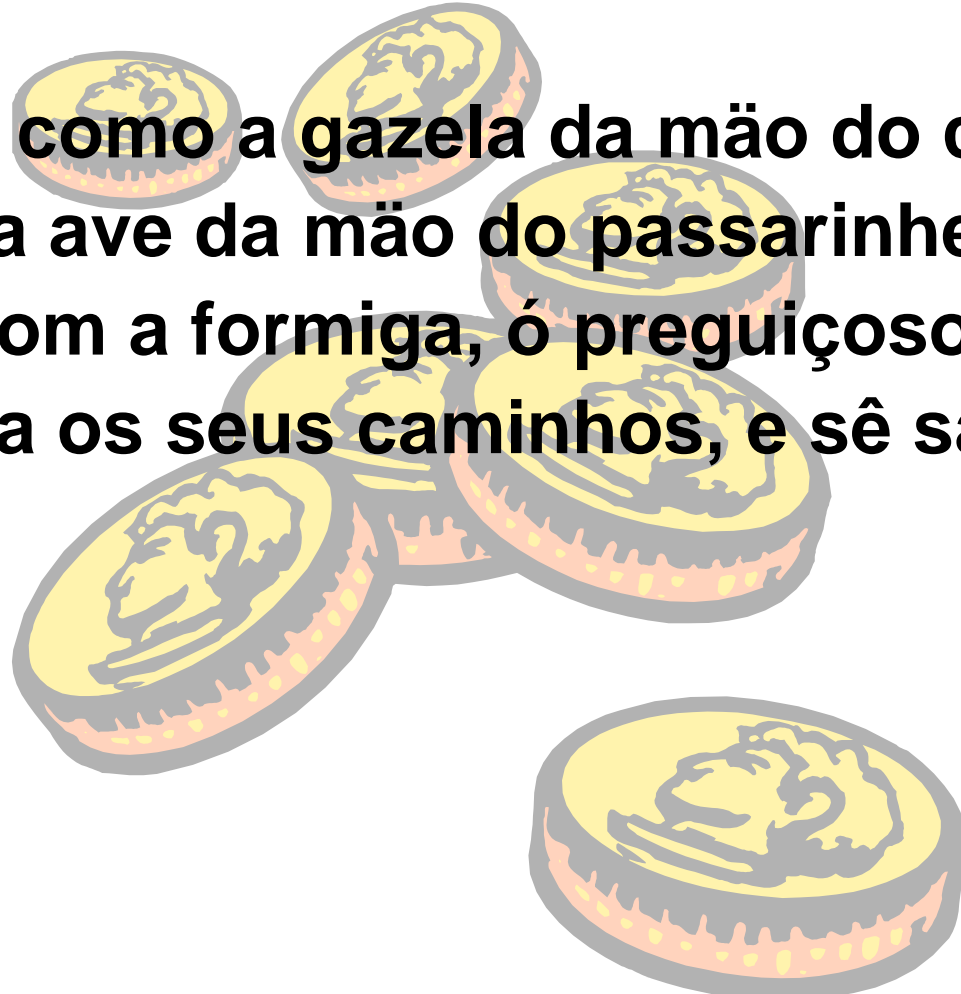


- 1 Filho meu, se ficaste por fiador do teu companheiro, se deste a tua mão ao estranho,**
- 2 E te deixaste enredar pelas próprias palavras; e te prendeste nas palavras da tua boca;**
- 3 Faze pois isto agora, filho meu, e livra-te, já que caíste nas mãos do teu companheiro: vai, humilha-te, e importuna o teu companheiro.**

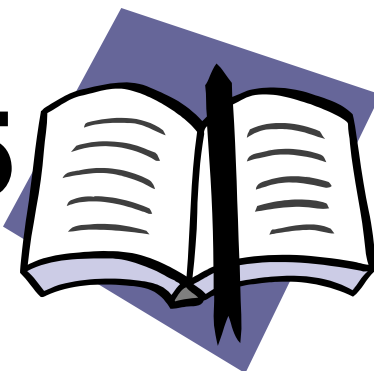
Proverbs 6:1–5



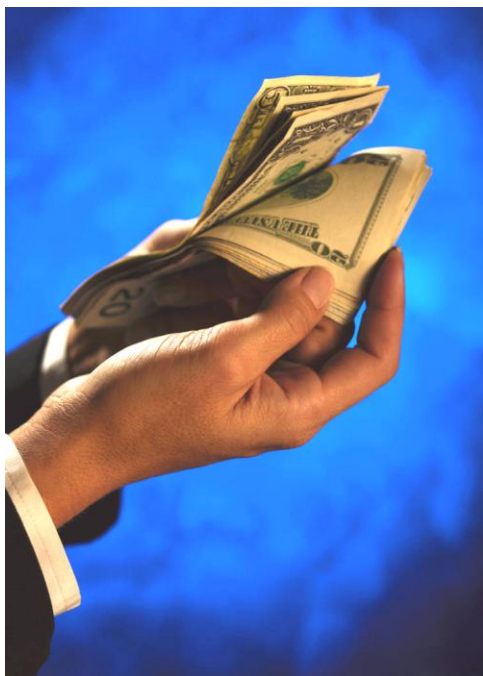
- 4** Livra-te, como a gazela da mão do caçador,
e como a ave da mão do passarinho.
- 5** Vai ter com a formiga, ó preguiçoso;
olha para os seus caminhos, e sê sábio.



Understanding Psalm 15



v. 5 – “money [dinheiro] . . . interest [usura] . . . bribe [peitas]”



- Put people before money.
 - Matthew 19:23–26
- Put God before money.
 - Matthew 6:24
 - Ananias & Sapphira (Acts 5)

Deuteronomy 23:19–20



19 You shall not charge interest to your countrymen: interest on money, food, or anything that may be loaned at interest.

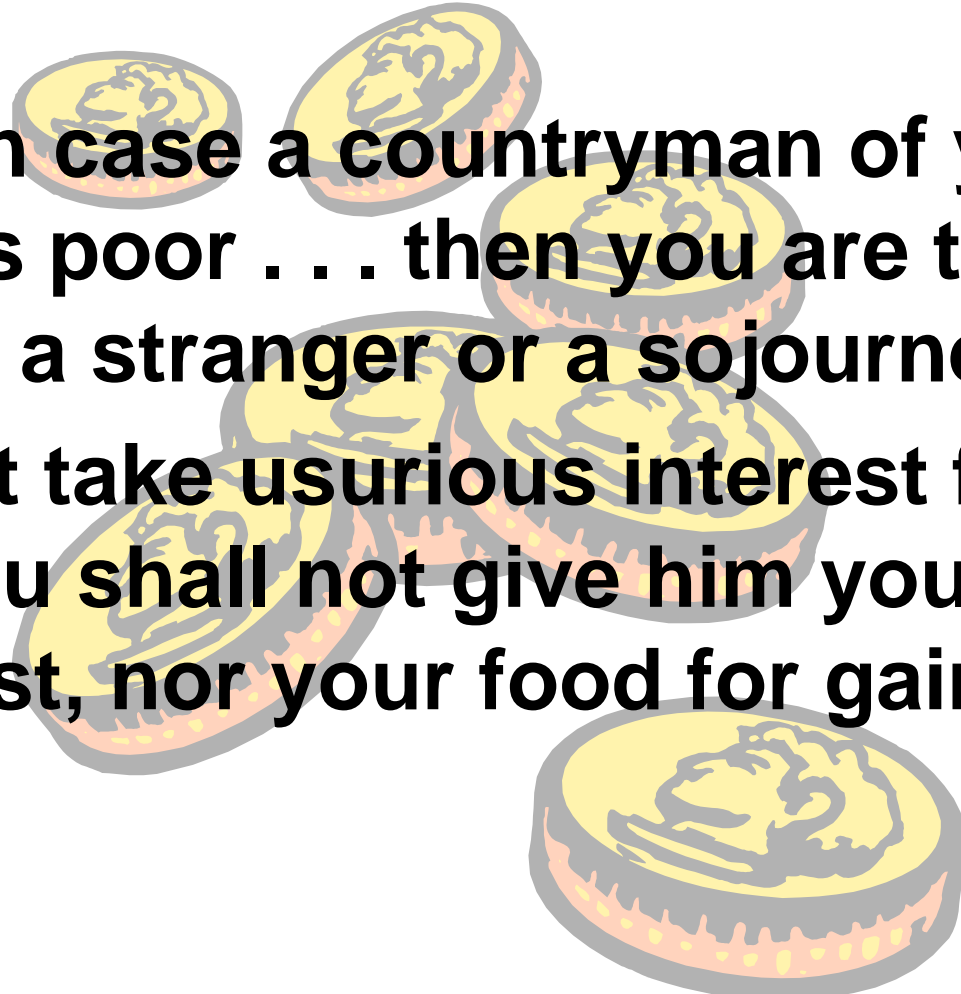
20 You may charge interest to a foreigner, but to your countrymen you shall not charge interest, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all that you undertake in the land which you are about to enter to possess.

Leviticus 25:35–37



35 Now in case a countryman of yours becomes poor . . . then you are to sustain him, like a stranger or a sojourner, . . .

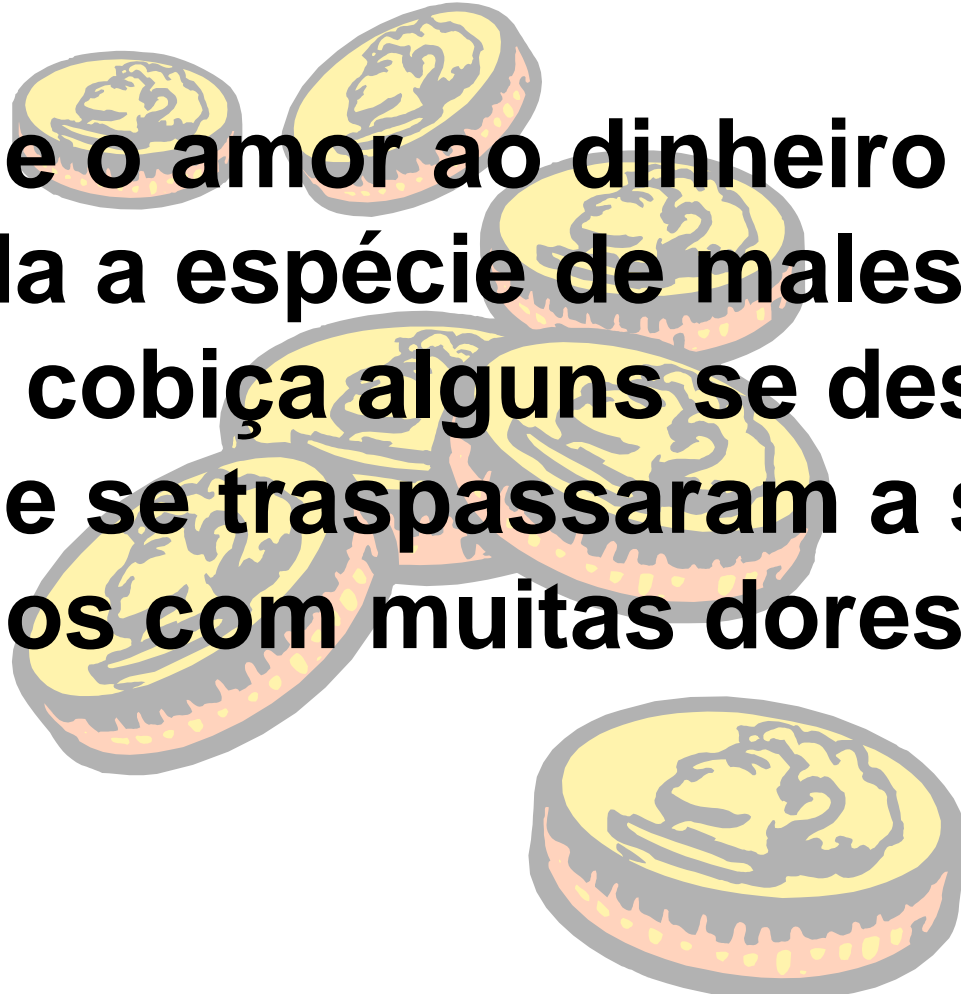
36 Do not take usurious interest from him, . . . **37** You shall not give him your silver at interest, nor your food for gain.



1 Timothy 6:10



- **Porque o amor ao dinheiro é a raiz de toda a espécie de males; e nessa cobiça alguns se desviaram da fé, e se traspassaram a si mesmos com muitas dores.**



Understanding Psalm 15



v. 5 – Promise

- Permanent, emphatic, objective negative: “Never ever . . .” [nunca será]
- Answer to questions in v. 1.
- Psalm 112:6–7
- Proverbs 12:3

2 Peter 1:10



Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; . . .

Preaching/Teaching

Psalm 15



- **Worship should not be overly casual.**
- **The heart is important.**
- **Relationships are important.**
- **How we handle money is important.**
- **None of us can accomplish these things in our own wisdom or power.**

