

1 Samuel 2:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up.

Analysis

Economic reversals extend God's sovereignty to material prosperity. The LORD 'maketh poor' and 'maketh rich' - human wealth comes not from personal achievement but divine distribution. Similarly, He 'bringeth low' and 'lifteth up' in social status. This theology challenges prosperity gospel distortions that promise wealth to the faithful while explaining poverty as lack of faith. Hannah knows both poverty of soul (barrenness) and richness of blessing (Samuel). Both conditions come from God's sovereign hand working for purposes beyond human comprehension.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern religions often associated wealth with divine favor and poverty with divine displeasure. While this connection appears in Israelite wisdom literature, Hannah's song provides important qualification: God actively determines both conditions according to His purposes.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does understanding God's sovereignty over wealth reshape attitudes toward money?
2. What dangers do you see in equating prosperity with divine blessing?

Interlinear Text

מְרוּמָם: אַךְ מִשְׁפֵּט יְלִיל וְמַעֲשֵׂה יְרִים מֹרֶךְ יְשִׁיבָה יְהִי הָרָם
The LORD maketh poor and maketh rich he bringeth low and liftest up

H3068 H3423 H6238 H8213 H637 H7311

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 75:7 (Parallel theme): But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.

Job 5:11 (Parallel theme): To set up on high those that be low; that those which mourn may be exalted to safety.

Job 1:21 (References Lord): And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

James 4:10 (References Lord): Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

Isaiah 2:12 (References Lord): For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low:

Psalms 102:10 (Parallel theme): Because of thine indignation and thy wrath: for thou hast lifted me up, and cast me down.