

Isaiah 2:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.

Analysis

This verse summarizes verses 13-16: human pride ('loftiness of man') will be humbled, and God alone exalted. The exclusivity—'the LORD alone shall be exalted'—reflects the fundamental theological reality that divine glory tolerates no rival (Isaiah 42:8). This anticipates the eschatological vindication when every knee bows and tongue confesses Christ's lordship (Philippians 2:10-11). Reformed theology's emphasis on soli Deo gloria finds its ultimate fulfillment in this vision of God's exclusive exaltation.

Historical Context

In polytheistic contexts where multiple deities vied for supremacy, Isaiah's monotheism and God's exclusive exaltation was radical. This theological exclusivity formed Israel's covenant distinctiveness.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What competes with God for exaltation in our hearts and culture?
2. How does anticipation of God's exclusive future exaltation inform present worship and devotion?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁח shall be bowed down H7817	וְגִבּוֹת וְתִלְכָּה And the loftiness H1365	וְהָאָדָם of man H120	וְשָׁפַל shall be made low H8213
וְהָאָדָם and the haughtiness H7312	וְאֶנְשֵׁי יָם H376	וְיִשְׁגָּב alone shall be exalted H7682	וְיְהוָה and the LORD H3068
וְיִשְׁגָּב H905			
וְיִשְׁגָּב H3117	וְיִשְׁגָּב H1931		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 2:11 (References Lord): The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.

Isaiah 13:11 (Parallel theme): And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogance of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.