

# James 2:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

## Analysis

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**Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?** James reminds them that God has chosen (exelexato, ἐξελέξατο) the poor (ptōchous, πτωχοῦς) of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom promised to those who love Him. Divine election often favors the lowly, as seen throughout Scripture.

This does not romanticize poverty but highlights God's upside-down kingdom. Reformed soteriology rejoices that God's choice rests not on merit but mercy. Favoritism opposes God's elective purposes.

## Historical Context

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Most early Christians were poor (1 Corinthians 1:26). James, leading relief efforts for famine-stricken saints (Acts 11), saw firsthand how God used poor believers mightily. His statement harmonizes with Paul's teaching that God chose the foolish and weak.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How can you honor and learn from the faith of materially poor saints?
2. What does God's choice of the poor reveal about His kingdom values?
3. How might this verse reshape your giving or relationships?

## Interlinear Text

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Ἀκούσατε	ἀδελφοί	μου	ἀγαπητοί·	οὐχ	ὁ	θεὸς
<b>Hearken</b>	<b>brethren</b>	<b>my</b>	<b>beloved</b>	<b>not</b>	<b>God</b>	
G191	G80	G3450	G27	G3756	G2316	
ἐξελέξατο	τοὺς	πτωχοὺς	τοῦ	κόσμου	τούτου,	πλουσίους
<b>Hath</b>		<b>the poor</b>		<b>world</b>	<b>of this</b>	<b>rich</b>
G1586	G3588	G4434	G3588	G2889	G5127	G4145
ἐν	πίστει	καὶ	κληρονόμους	τῆς	βασιλείας	ἥς
<b>in</b>	<b>faith</b>	<b>and</b>	<b>heirs</b>		<b>of the kingdom</b>	<b>which</b>
G1722	G4102	G2532	G2818	G3588	G932	G3739
ἐπηγγείλατο	τοῖς	ἀγαπῶσιν	αὐτόν			
<b>he hath promised</b>		<b>to them that love</b>	<b>him</b>			
G1861	G3588	G25	G846			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 5:3** (Kingdom): Blessed are the poor in spirit: for their's is the kingdom of heaven.

**Luke 6:20** (Kingdom): And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said, Blessed be ye poor: for your's is the kingdom of God.

**Revelation 2:9** (Parallel theme): I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

**2 Corinthians 8:9** (Parallel theme): For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

**Luke 12:21** (References God): So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

**1 Peter 1:4** (Parallel theme): To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

**Hebrews 11:26** (Parallel theme): Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

**Luke 12:32** (Kingdom): Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

**James 1:12** (Love): Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

**1 Corinthians 2:9** (Love): But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.