

James 4:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

Analysis

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. Humble yourselves (tapeinōthēte, ταπεινώθητε) before the Lord, and He will exalt (hypsōsei, ὑψώσει) you. God's kingdom reverses the world's playbook: those who stoop are lifted.

Reformed believers trust God's timing for vindication. Jesus' own path of humiliation then exaltation guarantees the same pattern for His people.

Historical Context

Oppressed believers longed for relief. James assures them that humility, not retaliation, leads to God's exaltation, echoing themes later repeated by Peter (1 Peter 5:6).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What situation currently demands humble submission?

2. How can you trust God's promise to exalt you in His way?
3. Who can you serve quietly as an act of humility?

Interlinear Text

ταπεινώθητε	ἐνώπιον	τοῦ	κυρίου	καὶ	ὑψώσει	ὑμᾶς
Humble yourselves	in the sight	G3588	of the Lord	and	he shall lift	you
G5013	G1799		G2962	G2532	G5312	G5209

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 147:6 (References Lord): The LORD lifteth up the meek: he casteth the wicked down to the ground.

Matthew 23:12 (Parallel theme): And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

1 Peter 5:6 (Parallel theme): Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

Luke 14:11 (Parallel theme): For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Job 22:29 (Parallel theme): When men are cast down, then thou shalt say, There is lifting up; and he shall save the humble person.

Psalms 113:7 (Parallel theme): He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth the needy out of the dunghill;

Luke 1:52 (Parallel theme): He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.

1 Samuel 2:9 (Parallel theme): He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.

Psalms 27:6 (References Lord): And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD.

Luke 18:14 (Parallel theme): I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

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