

# Proverbs 22:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The rich and poor meet together: the LORD is the maker of them all.

## Analysis

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Rich and poor have commonality: 'the LORD is the maker of them all.' Despite economic disparities, all humans share equal status as God's creatures. The Hebrew 'asah' (maker/Creator) emphasizes God's sovereignty over all. This grounds human dignity and equality in creation, not in wealth or status. Reformed theology's doctrine of imago Dei insists that all people, regardless of economic position, bear God's image and deserve respect. This verse rebukes both pride in the wealthy and despair in the poor, and condemns economic oppression.

## Historical Context

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Ancient societies were highly stratified economically. This proverb's assertion of common creation was countercultural, insisting that social hierarchy didn't erase fundamental equality before God.

## Related Passages

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

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. Do you view all people as equally valuable image-bearers regardless of economic status?
2. How should this truth shape your treatment of the poor and attitudes toward wealth?
3. What are the social implications of affirming that God is maker of both rich and poor?

## Interlinear Text

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עֲשֵׂה יְרֵכָה	וְכָפֹל שָׁוִי	נִפְגָּעֵי שָׁוִי	עֲשֵׂה ה	כָּל מ	יְהוָה:
<b>The rich</b>	<b>and poor</b>	<b>meet together</b>	<b>is the maker</b>	H3605	<b>the LORD</b>
H6223	H7326	H6298	H6213		H3068

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 31:15** (Parallel theme): Did not he that made me in the womb make him? and did not one fashion us in the womb?

**1 Samuel 2:7** (References Lord): The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up.

**Proverbs 14:31** (Parallel theme): He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor.

**Proverbs 29:13** (References Lord): The poor and the deceitful man meet together: the LORD lighteneth both their eyes.

**Job 34:19** (Parallel theme): How much less to him that accepteth not the persons of princes, nor regardeth the rich more than the poor? for they all are the work of his hands.

**1 Corinthians 12:21** (Parallel theme): And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.