

Proverbs 3:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Surely he scorneth the scorners: but he giveth grace unto the lowly.

Analysis

God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. The Hebrew 'luwts' (scoffer/mocker) represents proud rejection of wisdom. 'Chanan' (grace) indicates unmerited favor. This verse, quoted in James 4:6 and 1 Peter 5:5, establishes fundamental spiritual principle: pride blocks grace; humility receives it. God's disposition toward us correlates with our posture - arrogant self-sufficiency meets resistance; humble dependence meets generous supply.

Historical Context

Throughout Scripture, God brings down the proud and exalts the humble. Pharaoh, Goliath, Nebuchadnezzar, Herod - all examples of pride's judgment. Mary's Magnificat (Luke 1:51-53) celebrates this pattern. The cross supremely demonstrates it - Christ's humiliation leads to exaltation (Philippians 2:5-11).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What areas of pride might be blocking God's grace in your life?
2. How can you cultivate humility that positions you to receive God's favor?
3. In what ways does grace operate differently for the humble versus the proud?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵלֶּنֶת	וְאֵלֶּן	וְאֵלֶּן	וְאֵלֶּן	וְאֵלֶּן	וְאֵלֶּן	וְאֵלֶּן
H518	Surely he scorneth	H1931	Surely he scorneth	H3887	unto the lowly	but he giveth
	H3887		H3887		H6035	H5414

: וְאֵלֶּן

grace

H2580

Additional Cross-References

James 4:6 (Grace): But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

1 Peter 5:5 (Grace): Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

Psalms 138:6 (Parallel theme): Though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off.

Proverbs 9:12 (Parallel theme): If thou be wise, thou shalt be wise for thyself: but if thou scornest, thou alone shalt bear it.

Isaiah 57:15 (Parallel theme): For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Proverbs 21:24 (Parallel theme): Proud and haughty scioner is his name, who dealeth in proud wrath.

Proverbs 19:29 (Parallel theme): Judgments are prepared for scorners, and stripes for the back of fools.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org