

Psalms 103:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

Analysis

God 'knows our frame' (yetser, meaning formation or constitution) and 'remembers that we are dust' (aphar, the substance from which Adam was made). This isn't excuse-making but realism about human frailty. God's knowledge of our limitations informs His patient dealings with us. The Reformed doctrine of creation recognizes humans as finite creatures, not miniature deities. Christ, though divine, took on full humanity (Heb 4:15) to become a merciful high priest who understands human weakness.

Historical Context

Genesis 2:7 describes God forming Adam from dust, establishing humanity's humble origin. This physical composition reminded Israel that humans are fragile creatures dependent entirely on God's sustaining power.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does acknowledging your 'dusty' nature cultivate humility before God and patience with others?

2. What comfort do you find in Christ's full identification with your human frailty?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	הוּא	יָדַע	אֶת־עַמּוֹ	זָכַר	כִּי	עָפָר
H3588	H1931	For he knoweth	our frame	he remembereth	H3588	that we are dust
		H3045	H3336	H2142		H6083

אֲנִי־חַוֵּל
H587

Additional Cross-References

Job 10:9 (Parallel theme): Remember, I beseech thee, that thou hast made me as the clay; and wilt thou bring me into dust again?

Ecclesiastes 12:7 (Parallel theme): Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

Genesis 3:19 (Parallel theme): In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Psalms 89:47 (Parallel theme): Remember how short my time is: wherefore hast thou made all men in vain?

Job 7:21 (Parallel theme): And why dost thou not pardon my transgression, and take away mine iniquity? for now shall I sleep in the dust; and thou shalt seek me in the morning, but I shall not be.

Isaiah 29:16 (Parallel theme): Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay: for shall the work say of him that made it, He made me not? or shall the thing framed say of him that framed it, He had no understanding?

Job 13:25 (Parallel theme): Wilt thou break a leaf driven to and fro? and wilt thou pursue the dry stubble?

