

Psalms 104:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That thou givest them they gather: thou openest thine hand,
they are filled with good.

Analysis

What God gives, creatures gather; when He opens His hand, they are filled with good. This emphasizes both divine sovereignty (God gives) and creaturely agency (they gather). God's provision requires responsive action—creatures must gather what God supplies. 'Open thy hand' suggests generous abundance, not grudging provision. Being 'filled with good' (tob) shows God gives quality provision, not mere subsistence. Christ taught that the Father gives good gifts (Matt 7:11). The Reformed balance of divine sovereignty and human responsibility appears here—God provides, creatures respond.

Historical Context

The imagery of God opening His hand appears elsewhere (Ps 145:16), suggesting a generous provider freely distributing abundance. This contrasts with tight-fisted hoarding.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do you balance trusting God's provision with your responsibility to work and gather?
2. What does God's open-handed generosity teach about how you should give to others?

Interlinear Text

תַּתִּי	לָהֶם	יִלְקֹטוּ	תִּפְתָּח	יָדְךָ
That thou givest	H1992	them they gather	thou openest	thine hand
H5414		H3950	H6605	H3027
יִשְׂבְּעוּ	טוֹב:			
they are filled	with good			
H7646	H2896			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 145:16 (Parallel theme): Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.