

# Psalms 104:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust.

## Analysis

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When God hides His face, creatures are troubled; when He takes away breath (ruach), they die and return to dust (aphar). This sobering verse acknowledges God's power over life and death. Hiding His face suggests withdrawal of favor, causing distress. Taking away breath (the same word as Spirit) causes death, reversing the creation of Adam. Returning to dust recalls Genesis 3:19's curse. All life exists moment-by-moment by God's sustaining power. Christ's death ('gave up his spirit,' John 19:30) and resurrection demonstrate His authority over death itself.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Israelites understood breath as the life-principle given by God. Death was seen as God withdrawing this gift, returning the body to the dust from which it came (Gen 2:7, 3:19).

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does acknowledging your complete dependence on God's breath cultivate humility and gratitude?
2. What comfort does Christ's resurrection provide when facing mortality?

## Interlinear Text

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רֹאשׁוֹת יְהָוָה	פָּנִים	לְאָלָה	יְבָה	תִּסְתַּחַת	רְאֵת	רְאֵת	יָגִיעַ אֵל
Thou hidest	thy face	they are troubled	thou takest away	their breath	they die		
H5641	H6440	H926	H622	H7307	H1478		
אֶל	עַפְתָּה	וְאֶלְעָמָן					
H413	H6083	H7725					
to their dust	and return						

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.

**Psalms 146:4** (Parallel theme): His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.

**Acts 17:25** (Parallel theme): Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

**Psalms 30:7** (Parallel theme): LORD, by thy favour thou hast made my mountain to stand strong: thou didst hide thy face, and I was troubled.

**Psalms 90:3** (Parallel theme): Thou turnest man to destruction; and sayest, Return, ye children of men.

**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.

**Deuteronomy 31:17** (Parallel theme): Then my anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide my face from them, and

they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them; so that they will say in that day, Are not these evils come upon us, because our God is not among us?

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