

Psalm 112:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour.

Analysis

This verse describes the righteous person's generosity: 'He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor.' 'Dispersed' (pizar) means scattered widely, distributed liberally. The repetition 'dispersed... given' emphasizes active, intentional generosity. Giving to 'the poor' reflects biblical concern for the vulnerable and God's command to care for them. The second clause states the result: 'his righteousness endureth for ever.' 'Righteousness' here includes both right standing with God and right actions toward others. The fact that it 'endureth forever' indicates eternal significance - generosity has lasting impact beyond this life. The final phrase uses royal imagery: 'his horn shall be exalted with honour.' 'Horn' symbolizes strength, power, and dignity (like an animal's horn). To have one's horn exalted means to be honored, strengthened, and vindicated. The verse teaches that generosity paradoxically leads to honor and strength - giving away produces exaltation. This contradicts worldly wisdom of hoarding for security.

Historical Context

Old Testament law mandated care for the poor through gleaning rights (Leviticus 19:9-10), year of Jubilee provisions (Leviticus 25), and commands not to harden hearts against needy brothers (Deuteronomy 15:7-11). The righteous person in Israel was expected to be generous. Job defended his righteousness by citing his generosity to the poor (Job 29:12-17, 31:16-23). Proverbs repeatedly promises blessing for those who give to the poor (Proverbs 11:24-25, 19:17, 22:9). The

phrase 'his righteousness endureth forever' is quoted by Paul in 2 Corinthians 9:9 in context of Christian giving - demonstrating continuity between Old and New Testament ethics of generosity. The exaltation of the horn connects to God's promise to honor those who honor Him. Throughout church history, radical generosity has characterized genuine revival and faith - early church sharing in Acts 2-4, monastic charity, Protestant almsgiving, modern missionary sacrifice. The verse promises that such generosity has eternal significance and divine recognition.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What motivates the kind of generous dispersing and giving described in this verse?
2. How does giving to the poor relate to one's righteousness enduring forever?
3. Why does Scripture consistently promise that generous giving leads to honor and strength?
4. In what ways can Christians practice this kind of liberal distribution in contemporary contexts?
5. How does this verse challenge both stinginess and the prosperity gospel that gives in order to get?

Interlinear Text

רָא	נִתְןָ	לְאַבִּיּוֹן	צַדְקָתוֹ	עָמֵד
He hath dispersed	he hath given	to the poor	his righteousness	endureth
H6340	H5414	H34	H6666	H5975
לְעֵד	בְּכָבֹוד	בְּכָבֹוד:	בְּכָבֹוד	
for ever	his horn	shall be exalted	with honour	
H5703	H7161	H7311	H3519	

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 75:10 (Righteousness): All the horns of the wicked also will I cut off; but the horns of the righteous shall be exalted.

Hebrews 13:16 (Parallel theme): But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Hebrews 6:10 (Righteousness): For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

Romans 12:13 (Parallel theme): Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

Revelation 22:11 (Righteousness): He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

Psalms 92:10 (Parallel theme): But my horn shalt thou exalt like the horn of an unicorn: I shall be anointed with fresh oil.

1 Timothy 6:18 (Parallel theme): That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

Isaiah 58:7 (Parallel theme): Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?

Isaiah 58:10 (Parallel theme): And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday:

Acts 20:35 (Parallel theme): I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

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