

Psalms 113:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth the needy
out of the dunghill;

Analysis

"He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth the needy out of the dunghill." The verse illustrates God's condescension (v.6) through specific examples. Mekimi me'afar dal (who raises from dust the poor/weak). Qum (raise) means to lift up, establish, cause to stand. Afar (dust) indicates lowest position—sitting in dust signals mourning, poverty, or humiliation. Dal (poor/weak/thin) describes the economically vulnerable. Me'ashpot yarim evyon (from refuse heap lifts the needy). Ashpot (refuse heap/dunghill) was where the destitute scavenged for food or warmth—ultimate degradation. Evyon (needy/poor) emphasizes lack. God specializes in radical reversals—lifting those in literal and spiritual poverty to honor. This anticipates Mary's Magnificat (Luke 1:52-53) and James 2:5 (God chose the poor rich in faith).

Historical Context

Hannah's song (1 Samuel 2:8) uses nearly identical language, celebrating God's reversal of her barrenness. Ruth gleaned in fields (poverty), but God elevated her to Boaz's wife, David's great-grandmother, Christ's ancestor (Ruth 4:13-22). Joseph went from pit to prison to palace (Genesis 37-41). David rose from youngest shepherd to king. Esther moved from orphan to queen, saving her people. Daniel went from exile to prime minister. The pattern continues: Jesus born in stable, laid in manger, yet exalted above all names (Philippians 2:9-11). Disciples were fishermen, tax collectors, zealots—yet turned world upside down (Acts 17:6). Paul was chief of sinners, yet became chief apostle (1 Timothy 1:15-16).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What "dust" or "dunghill" situations have you experienced from which God lifted you?
2. How does God's pattern of elevating the lowly challenge worldly values of status and success?
3. In what ways should believers participate in God's work of lifting the poor and needy?

Interlinear Text

יְהַלִּיף	מִתַּחַר	לְ	מִן, אֶשְׁפֹּת	יָרִים	אֶבְיוֹן:
He raiseth up	out of the dust	the poor	out of the dunghill	and lifteth	the needy
H6965	H6083	H1800	H830	H7311	H34

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 107:41 (Parallel theme): Yet setteth he the poor on high from affliction, and maketh him families like a flock.

Job 5:11 (Parallel theme): To set up on high those that be low; that those which mourn may be exalted to safety.

Ezekiel 17:24 (Parallel theme): And all the trees of the field shall know that I the LORD have brought down the high tree, have exalted the low tree, have dried up the green tree, and have made the dry tree to flourish: I the LORD have spoken and have done it.

James 2:5 (Parallel theme): Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

