

Psalms 146:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help.

Analysis

Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. The emphatic negative—*al-tivtechu vindivim* (אַל-תִּבְטְחוּ בַּנְדִּיבִים) "do not trust in princes"—warns against misplaced confidence. *Nadiv* (נָדִיב) "prince/noble" denotes those with power, wealth, or status. *Ben-adam* (בֶּן-אָדָם) "son of man" emphasizes human frailty and mortality, unable to provide ultimate security or salvation.

In whom there is no help (*she'ein lo teshu'ah*, שֶׁאֵין לוֹ תְּשׁוּעָה)—*teshuah* (תְּשׁוּעָה) "salvation/deliverance" is what humans desperately need but no mortal can ultimately provide. This anticipates Jeremiah 17:5-8's contrast between cursed trust in flesh and blessed trust in Yahweh. Only God provides true, lasting help (Psalm 121:1-2).

Historical Context

Israel's history included disastrous alliances with powerful nations (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon) seeking security through political arrangements rather than trusting Yahweh. Prophets repeatedly condemned such misplaced trust (Isaiah 30:1-3, 31:1-3, Jeremiah 2:18, 37). This verse summarizes that prophetic warning.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What contemporary 'princes'—political leaders, wealth, technology, education—tempt believers to misplace ultimate trust?
2. How can Christians honor and submit to human authorities while not trusting them for ultimate help?
3. What warning signs indicate that trust has shifted from God to human resources or relationships?

Interlinear Text

אֵל תִּבְטָח בְּנָדִיבִים בֶּן אִדָּם שׁוֹ אֵין לֹ
H408 Put not your trust in princes nor in the son of man H369 H0
H982 H5081 H1121 H120

תְּשׁוּעָה:
in whom there is no help
H8668

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 2:22 (Parallel theme): Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of?

Psalms 108:12 (Parallel theme): Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man.

Isaiah 37:6 (Parallel theme): And Isaiah said unto them, Thus shall ye say unto your master, Thus saith the LORD, Be not afraid of the words that thou hast heard, wherewith the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me.

Isaiah 31:3 (Parallel theme): Now the Egyptians are men, and not God; and their horses flesh, and not spirit. When the LORD shall stretch out his hand, both he that helpeth shall fall, and he that is holpen shall fall down, and they all shall fail together.

Psalms 60:11 (Parallel theme): Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man.

Psalms 62:9 (Parallel theme): Surely men of low degree are vanity, and men of high degree are a lie: to be laid in the balance, they are altogether lighter than vanity.

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