

Psalms 18:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For thou wilt save the afflicted people; but wilt bring down high looks.

Analysis

God saves the humble ('anav'—afflicted/humble) but brings down the haughty eyes. The Hebrew 'gabhah ayin' (lofty eyes) symbolizes pride. This anticipates Jesus' teaching that the humble will be exalted and proud humbled (Luke 14:11, 18:14). Reformed theology sees pride as the root sin and humility as essential for receiving grace (James 4:6, 1 Peter 5:5).

Historical Context

Reflects Israel's experience where God opposed proud nations but delivered humble remnant. Also seen in Mary's Magnificat (Luke 1:52).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. In what subtle ways does pride manifest in your life?
2. How do you actively cultivate humility before God?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	אֶתְּהָ	עַם	עֲנִי	תוֹשׁ יֵעַ	וְעֵינַי יֵם	כִּמּוֹת
H3588	H859	people	the afflicted	For thou wilt save	looks	high
		H5971	H6041	H3467	H5869	H7311
תִּשְׁפִּיל:						
but wilt bring down						
H8213						

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 101:5 (Parallel theme): Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer.

Isaiah 57:15 (Parallel theme): For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Isaiah 66:2 (Parallel theme): For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.

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?

Psalms 9:18 (Parallel theme): For the needy shall not alway be forgotten: the expectation of the poor shall not perish for ever.

2 Corinthians 8:9 (Parallel theme): For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

2 Samuel 22:28 (Salvation): And the afflicted people thou wilt save: but thine eyes are upon the haughty, that thou mayest bring them down.

Isaiah 3:9 (Parallel theme): The shew of their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not. Woe unto their soul! for they have rewarded evil unto themselves.

Isaiah 10:12 (Parallel theme): Wherefore it shall come to pass, that when the Lord hath performed his whole work upon mount Zion and on Jerusalem, I will punish the fruit of the stout heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his high looks.

Psalms 40:17 (Parallel theme): But I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinketh upon me: thou art my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God.

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