

Psalm 18:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great.

Analysis

God gave David the 'shield of salvation' and His right hand upheld him. Divine humility ('anavah'—or 'gentleness') made him great. This paradox—God's humility exalting David—anticipates Jesus' teaching that the way up is down (Mark 10:43-45). The Hebrew could mean God's condescension or His training David in humility. Either way, it demonstrates that greatness comes through humility, reversing worldly values.

Historical Context

David's rise from shepherd to king exemplifies God exalting the humble. God's 'condescension' to personally involve Himself in David's life made greatness possible.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How do you see God's 'condescension' actively working in your life?

2. In what ways does embracing humility open pathways to greater usefulness?

Interlinear Text

וְתַתֵּן	לִ	מֵגִ	בְּ	שָׁעַר	וְיִמְנַבֵּ		
Thou hast also given	H5414	me the shield	H4043	of thy salvation	H3468	and thy right hand	H3225
תַּסְעֵד	נִ	עֲנָנוֹתָךְ	תִּרְבֹּנָי				
hath holden me up	H5582	and thy gentleness	H6037	hath made me great	H7235		

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 22:36 (Salvation): Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy gentleness hath made me great.

Psalms 28:7 (Parallel theme): The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.

2 Corinthians 10:1 (Parallel theme): Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you:

Isaiah 40:11 (Parallel theme): He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

Deuteronomy 33:29 (Salvation): Happy art thou, O Israel: who is like unto thee, O people saved by the LORD, the shield of thy help, and who is the sword of thy excellency! and thine enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou shalt tread upon their high places.

Psalms 17:7 (Salvation): Shew thy marvellous lovingkindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust in thee from those that rise up against them.

Isaiah 22:3 (Parallel theme): All thy rulers are fled together, they are bound by the archers: all that are found in thee are bound together, which have fled from far.

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