

# Psalms 22:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

All they that be fat upon earth shall eat and worship: all they that go down to the dust shall bow before him: and none can keep alive his own soul.

## Analysis

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Universal worship includes both 'they that be fat' (prosperous/powerful) and 'they that go down to the dust' (dying/humble)—all humanity will bow before God. The phrase 'none can keep alive his own soul' asserts human inability to self-save. Reformed theology emphasizes total depravity and absolute dependence on divine grace: no human effort, wealth, or power can secure eternal life. Only God preserves souls, and only through Christ's atoning work.

## Historical Context

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This verse democratizes worship—rich and poor, powerful and weak, all stand equally before God. Ancient cultures often viewed the wealthy as divinely favored, but Scripture consistently levels such distinctions before God's throne.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does recognizing that 'none can keep alive his own soul' humble human pride?
2. What does universal accountability before God teach about the urgency of the gospel?

## Interlinear Text

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## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 45:12** (Parallel theme): And the daughter of Tyre shall be there with a gift; even the rich among the people shall intreat thy favour.

**Philippians 2:10** (Parallel theme): That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

**Isaiah 26:19** (Parallel theme): Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.

**Psalms 113:7** (Parallel theme): He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth the needy out of the dunghill;

**Isaiah 45:23** (Parallel theme): I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

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