

Psalm 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

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

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

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

אָכַל	וְשִׁתְּפָנָו	כָּל	דְּשִׁנִּי	אֵצֶז	לִפְנֵי	כָּרְעָו
shall eat	and worship	H3605	All they that be fat	upon earth	before	shall bow
H398	H7812		H1879	H776	H6440	H3766

כָּל	יָרַד	עַפְרָה	לְאַנְפְּשָׁוּ	ל
H3605	all they that go down	to the dust	his own soul	H3808

הה

him and none can keep alive

H2421

Additional Cross-References

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 liftest 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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