

Psalms 41:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies.

Analysis

The LORD promises to 'preserve' and 'keep alive' the one who considers the poor. The Hebrew *shamar* (preserve) implies active guarding and protection. Being 'blessed upon the earth' connects earthly prosperity with compassionate action, while 'not delivered unto the will of his enemies' assures divine protection from those who would exploit vulnerability.

Historical Context

Care for the poor was embedded in Israel's covenant law (Deuteronomy 15), distinguishing them from surrounding nations where the weak were often exploited. This psalm connects personal blessing with social responsibility.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does care for the poor reflect God's own character?

2. What connection exists between showing mercy and receiving divine protection?

Interlinear Text

יְהוָה הוּא	יִשְׁמְרֵהוּ	וְיִחְיֶהוּ	וְיִאֲשֹׁר	
The LORD	will preserve	him and keep him alive	and he shall be blessed	
H3068	H8104	H2421	H833	
בְּאֶרֶץ	וְאַל	תִּתֵּנִי הוּא	בְּנֶפֶשׁ	אֹיְבָיו:
upon the earth	H408	and thou wilt not deliver	him unto the will	of his enemies
H776		H5414	H5315	H341

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 27:12 (Parallel theme): Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty.

1 Timothy 4:8 (Parallel theme): For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

Psalms 37:22 (Blessing): For such as be blessed of him shall inherit the earth; and they that be cursed of him shall be cut off.

Psalms 33:19 (Parallel theme): To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.