

Psalms 44:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For our soul is bowed down to the dust: our belly cleaveth unto the earth.

Analysis

The desperate condition: 'For our soul is bowed down to the dust: our belly cleaveth unto the earth.' This posture of complete prostration suggests either humble worship or utter defeat--probably both. They lie face-down in the dust, unable to rise, completely dependent on divine intervention to restore them.

Historical Context

The imagery echoes the curse of the serpent (Genesis 3:14) who would eat dust, and the mourning postures of Job (Job 16:15). Being pressed to the earth suggests return to dust, approaching death.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to be 'bowed to the dust' spiritually?
2. How is this posture of complete helplessness actually a posture of faith?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	שָׁחָה	לְעָפָר	נַפְשִׁי	דָּבַקָה	לָאֵרֶץ	בְּטֶנְנוֹ:
H3588	is bowed down	to the dust	For our soul	cleaveth	unto the earth	our belly
	H7743	H6083	H5315	H1692	H776	H990

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:25 (Parallel theme): My soul cleaveth unto the dust: quicken thou me according to thy word.

Isaiah 51:23 (Parallel theme): But I will put it into the hand of them that afflict thee; which have said to thy soul, Bow down, that we may go over: and thou hast laid thy body as the ground, and as the street, to them that went over.

Lamentations 4:5 (Parallel theme): They that did feed delicately are desolate in the streets: they that were brought up in scarlet embrace dunghills.