

Psalms 68:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

God setteth the solitary in families: he bringeth out those which are bound with chains: but the rebellious dwell in a dry land.

Analysis

God's care for society's most vulnerable—the fatherless, widows, and prisoners—reveals His character as defender of the powerless. 'Father of the fatherless' shows God's personal involvement, not merely distant compassion. 'Judge of the widows' indicates His role as protector and advocate in legal matters. 'Setteth the solitary in families' demonstrates restorative justice, bringing the isolated into community. Yet 'the rebellious dwell in a dry land' warns that rejecting God means forfeiting His provision and blessing.

Historical Context

Mosaic law repeatedly commanded care for orphans, widows, and foreigners (Exodus 22:22-24, Deuteronomy 10:18). God's character as defender of the vulnerable established the ethical foundation for Israel's social justice laws.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does God's special concern for the vulnerable challenge your priorities and resource allocation?
2. In what practical ways can the church function as 'family' for the solitary and marginalized?
3. What warning does the image of rebels dwelling in 'dry land' convey about life apart from God?

Interlinear Text

מוֹצֵ יָא	בְּ יִתָּה	יְחִיד יִמֵּן	מ וְשִׁיב	אֱלֹהֵ יִמֵּן	
he bringeth out	in families	the solitary	setteth	God	
H3318	H1004	H3173	H3427	H430	
צְחִיטָהּ: שָׁכֵן וְ	ס וְכֶרֶם יִמֵּן	אֶן	בְּכֹשֶׁר וְ	אֶ סִירִים	
in a dry	but the rebellious		with chains	those which are bound	
H6707	H5637	H389	H3574	H615	
dwelt					
H7931					

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 113:9 (Parallel theme): He maketh the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the LORD.

Psalms 69:33 (Parallel theme): For the LORD heareth the poor, and despiseth not his prisoners.

Psalms 107:10 (Parallel theme): Such as sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, being bound in affliction and iron;

Psalms 107:14 (Parallel theme): He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and brake their bands in sunder.

Isaiah 61:1 (References God): The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

Psalms 146:7 (Parallel theme): Which executeth judgment for the oppressed: which giveth food to the hungry. The LORD looseth the prisoners:

Galatians 4:27 (Parallel theme): For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband.

1 Samuel 2:5 (Parallel theme): They that were full have hired out themselves for bread; and they that were hungry ceased: so that the barren hath born seven; and she that hath many children is waxed feeble.

Acts 16:26 (Parallel theme): And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.