

Psalms 72:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper.

Analysis

The king delivers 'the needy when he crieth' and 'the poor also, and him that hath no helper.' Christ's reign especially benefits the powerless—those with no human advocate find divine champion. This reveals God's heart for the vulnerable and marginalized. Jesus's ministry consistently elevated the lowly (Luke 4:18), and His kingdom reverses worldly power structures (Luke 1:52-53). The gospel reaches those who recognize their spiritual poverty and need for a Savior.

Historical Context

Ancient kings typically served the wealthy and powerful who could provide military support and tribute. God's king inverts this pattern, prioritizing those society devalues—orphans, widows, poor, foreigners.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's special concern for the needy shape your priorities and ministry?

2. In what ways are you spiritually 'poor' and 'needy,' requiring Christ's deliverance?
3. How can the church reflect Christ's heart by championing those who 'have no helper'?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	יִצִיל	אֶבִּי וְ	מִשּׁוֹ עַ	אֶנִּי	אֵין
H3588	For he shall deliver	the needy	when he crieth	the poor	H369
	H5337	H34	H7768	H6041	
	עֵי רַ	לֹ:			
	also and him that hath no helper	H0			
	H5826				

Additional Cross-References

Job 29:12 (Parallel theme): Because I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him.

Psalms 102:17 (Parallel theme): He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer.

Hebrews 7:25 (Parallel theme): Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Ecclesiastes 4:1 (Parallel theme): So I returned, and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun: and behold the tears of such as were oppressed, and they had no comforter; and on the side of their oppressors there was power; but they had no comforter.

Isaiah 41:17 (Parallel theme): When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.

Psalms 72:4 (Parallel theme): He shall judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor.

Psalms 10:17 (Parallel theme): LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear:

2 Corinthians 8:9 (Parallel theme): For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

Luke 4:18 (Parallel theme): The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

Psalms 102:20 (Parallel theme): To hear the groaning of the prisoner; to loose those that are appointed to death;