

Psalm 72:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He shall spare the poor and needy, and shall save the souls of the needy.

Analysis

The king 'shall spare the poor and needy' and 'save the souls of the needy,' showing both compassion and power. 'Spare' means treat with mercy; 'save' means deliver from danger. This goes beyond charity to actual rescue and transformation. Christ saves not just bodies but souls—providing eternal salvation, not mere temporal relief. Yet spiritual salvation often includes tangible care for physical needs, as Jesus's ministry demonstrated (healing, feeding, etc.).

Historical Context

Saving 'souls' uses Hebrew 'nephesh,' meaning life or person—the whole being, not just spiritual aspect. Biblical salvation is holistic, addressing spiritual, physical, emotional, and social needs.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's salvation address your whole person, not just spiritual dimension?
2. What is the relationship between evangelism (saving souls) and mercy ministry (meeting physical needs)?
3. How can you reflect Christ's compassion by 'sparing' and 'saving' the vulnerable around you?

Interlinear Text

וְשִׁיעַן: אֶבְיוֹן יָם וְנִפְשׁוֹת אֶבְיוֹן יָם וְחַסְלָל יְלִלְלָה
He shall spare the poor and needy the souls and needy and shall save
H2347 H5921 H1800 H34 H5315 H34 H3467

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 34:16 (Parallel theme): I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick: but I will destroy the fat and the strong; I will feed them with judgment.

Psalms 109:31 (Salvation): For he shall stand at the right hand of the poor, to save him from those that condemn his soul.

Matthew 5:3 (Parallel theme): Blessed are the poor in spirit: for their's is the kingdom of heaven.