

# Psalm 72:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They that dwell in the wilderness shall bow before him; and his enemies shall lick the dust.

## Analysis

Those dwelling in wilderness bowing before the king and enemies licking dust depicts total submission even from remote or hostile peoples. 'Lick the dust' suggests complete humiliation and defeat (Micah 7:17). This imagery, though harsh, emphasizes that Christ's reign will be unopposed—every knee will bow, willingly or unwillingly (Philippians 2:10). The question is whether submission comes through grace or judgment.

## Historical Context

Ancient vassal kings showed submission by bowing and bringing tribute. 'Licking dust' was ultimate degradation, reserved for thoroughly defeated enemies who acknowledged complete subjugation.

## Related Passages

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

1. How does the certainty of universal submission to Christ affect your evangelism urgency?

2. What is the difference between willing worship now and forced submission at judgment?
3. In what areas of your life do you still resist bowing fully to Christ's authority?

## Interlinear Text

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כָּרַע	וְ	לְפָנָיו	צִיִּים	אֵיבָרִים	וְאֵיבָרִים	עָפָר
<b>before</b>	<b>shall bow</b>	<b>They that dwell in the wilderness</b>	<b>him and his enemies</b>	<b>the dust</b>		
H6440	H3766	H6728		H341		H6083
לְלַקְּכָה						
<b>shall lick</b>						
H3897						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 49:23** (Parallel theme): And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers: they shall bow down to thee with their face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me.

**Micah 7:17** (Parallel theme): They shall lick the dust like a serpent, they shall move out of their holes like worms of the earth: they shall be afraid of the LORD our God, and shall fear because of thee.