

Psalms 75:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south.

Analysis

The psalm teaches: "For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south" (Hebrew ki lo mi-motza u-mi-ma-arav v-lo mid-bar harim). The three directions (excluding north where God's throne is, v.6) represent all earthly sources. "Promotion" (Hebrew harim, literally "lifting up") doesn't come from human sources—geography, politics, or effort. The verse demolishes self-advancement, establishing that elevation comes solely from God. This humbles pride and encourages trust.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern empires arose from various directions—Egypt (south), Assyria/Babylon (east/north), Greece/Rome (west). Yet none ultimately controlled human destiny; God sovereignly raised and lowered nations (Daniel 2:21). Joseph's elevation from prison to palace exemplified divine promotion despite circumstances (Genesis 41). Jesus taught that exaltation comes through humility (Luke 14:11, 18:14).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing that promotion comes from God alone change your approach to ambition and career?
2. What worldly strategies for advancement (networking, self-promotion, manipulation) does this verse challenge?
3. How did Christ's path to exaltation through humiliation and cross (Philippians 2:9-11) exemplify this principle?

Interlinear Text

לֹא כִּי מִמֶּזֶחֶת בָּהָר וְמִמִּפְנֵי רָאשָׁה
H3588 H3808 neither from the east nor from the west H3808
לֹא מִמִּמְלָכָה רְאִים
H4057 H7311 for promotion

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 3:3 (Parallel theme): But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.

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