Psalms 105:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

> He sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant:

Analysis

God 'sent a man before them' - Joseph, who was 'sold for a servant.' This reveals divine providence working through human wickedness. Joseph's brothers' sin became God's means of preserving Israel. Joseph went ahead to prepare salvation. This prefigures Christ, rejected by His brothers (John 1:11) but sent ahead to prepare salvation. 'Sold' (makar) recalls Joseph's sale into slavery (Gen 37:28), yet God orchestrated it for good (Gen 50:20). The Reformed doctrine of providence recognizes God's sovereign purposes accomplished even through sin.

Historical Context

Joseph's sale into slavery (Gen 37:12-36) appeared to be family treachery but was God's method of positioning him to save the family during famine. God's providence worked through, not despite, these events.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How have you seen God work His purposes through painful betrayals or injustices in your life?
2. What does Joseph's experience teach about God's ability to use evil for good?

Interlinear Text

שָׁלַ ח	לִפְנֵיהֶ ם	אִ ישׁ	לְ עֶ בֶד	נִמְכַּ ר	יוֹסֵף:
He sent	**before**	**a man**	**for a servant**	**who was sold**	**them even Joseph**
H7971	H6440	H376	H5650	H4376	H3130

Additional Cross-References

Acts 7:9 (Parallel theme): And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him,

Genesis 37:36 (Parallel theme): And the Midianites sold him into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, and captain of the guard.

Genesis 50:20 (Parallel theme): But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

Genesis 39:1 (Parallel theme): And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither.