

Psalms 105:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron:

Analysis

Joseph's feet were 'hurt with fetters' and he was 'laid in iron.' This describes his imprisonment's harsh reality. Yet this suffering was preparatory—the testing before exaltation. 'Hurt' (innah) suggests affliction and humiliation. Iron chains symbolize complete powerlessness. Yet God was present in Joseph's imprisonment, ultimately exalting him. Christ suffered bonds (John 18:12, 24) before His exaltation. The Reformed understanding of suffering recognizes God's sanctifying purposes in believers' trials (Rom 5:3-5, James 1:2-4).

Historical Context

Joseph's imprisonment in Egypt (Gen 39:20-40:23) lasted years. Being 'laid in iron' reflects harsh prison conditions. Ancient imprisonment often involved literal chains and stocks.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do you maintain faith when circumstances seem to contradict God's promises?

2. What does Joseph's patient endurance during unjust imprisonment teach about trusting God's timing?

Interlinear Text

נָפְשׁוֹ׃	בְּ אָה	בְּ רֶזֶל	רַגְלֵ יוֹ	בְּכָ בָּל	עָנּוּ
he	was laid	in iron	Whose feet	with fetters	they hurt
H5315	H935	H1270	H7272	H3525	H6031

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 40:15 (Parallel theme): For indeed I was stolen away out of the land of the Hebrews: and here also have I done nothing that they should put me into the dungeon.

Genesis 39:20 (Parallel theme): And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.

Acts 16:24 (Parallel theme): Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.