

Psalm 105:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The king sent and loosed him; even the ruler of the people,
and let him go free.

Analysis

The king sent and loosed Joseph, the 'ruler of the people let him go.' Pharaoh's release of Joseph demonstrates how God controls even pagan monarchs to accomplish His purposes. Joseph went from prisoner to prime minister instantly when God's timing arrived. Human authorities unknowingly serve God's plans. This prefigures Christ's exaltation after suffering (Phil 2:9-11). The Reformed doctrine of God's sovereignty over all authorities (Rom 13:1) recognizes that even unbelieving rulers accomplish divine purposes.

Historical Context

Pharaoh released Joseph from prison and immediately elevated him to second-in-command over Egypt (Gen 41:14-45) when he interpreted Pharaoh's dreams. This dramatic reversal demonstrated God's sovereignty over pagan rulers.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does God's control over earthly authorities provide comfort when ungodly leaders seem to have power?
2. What does Joseph's sudden exaltation teach about trusting God despite long seasons of obscurity?

Interlinear Text

לְפָתַח הַמֶּלֶךְ מֶלֶךְ אֲנָשָׁן
sent The king and loosed him even the ruler of the people and let him go free
H7971 H4428 H5425 H4910 H5971 H6605

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 41:14 (Parallel theme): Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh.

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