

# Psalm 105:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He turned their heart to hate his people, to deal subtilly with his servants.

## Analysis

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God 'turned their heart to hate his people, to deal subtilly with his servants.' This startling verse attributes Egypt's hatred to God's sovereign action. He turned (haphak) their hearts, though they remained morally responsible. This demonstrates God's mysterious sovereignty over human hearts, using even human wickedness to accomplish His purposes. The hardening of Pharaoh's heart (Exod 9:12) fits this pattern. This doesn't make God the author of sin but shows His sovereignty extends to all events. The Reformed doctrine of divine sovereignty grapples with this mystery while maintaining God's holiness.

## Historical Context

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Egypt's oppression of Israel (Exod 1:8-22) included forced labor, infanticide, and brutal treatment. While Egypt remained morally culpable, this verse recognizes God's sovereign purpose in allowing and using their hostility.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How do you reconcile God's sovereignty over human decisions with human moral responsibility?
2. What comfort comes from knowing God can use even opposition to accomplish His purposes for you?

## Interlinear Text

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בָּעֵדִים: לְהַתְּנוּ לְשָׁנָה עַמִּים בְּמִתְּנוּ לְשָׁנָה אֶת־לְבַבְּם  
He turned their heart to hate his people to deal subtilly with his servants  
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## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 7:19** (Parallel theme): The same dealt subtilly with our kindred, and evil entreated our fathers, so that they cast out their young children, to the end they might not live.

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