

Psalm 106:42

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Their enemies also oppressed them, and they were brought into subjection under their hand.

Analysis

This verse continues describing oppression. 'Their enemies also oppressed them' uses *lachats* (לָחַץ), meaning to press, oppress, or afflict. 'They were brought into subjection under their hand' shows total domination—reduced to servitude. This reversed the dominion mandate (Genesis 1:28) and covenant promises of prosperity and ruling over enemies (Deuteronomy 28:1-14). Being subjected by enemies is the opposite of God's design for His image-bearers. Yet this humiliation was covenant curse for disobedience (Deuteronomy 28:43-48). The psalm emphasizes that Israel's subjection wasn't random historical misfortune but God's judgment for covenant-breaking.

Historical Context

The cycle of oppression-repentance-deliverance in Judges exemplifies this. Each oppression brought Israel to desperate circumstances until they cried out. Assyria's conquest of the northern kingdom and Babylon's destruction of Judah and Jerusalem represented the ultimate fulfillment of subjection under enemies. The exile was the covenant curse fully realized—God's people removed from the Promised Land and subjected to pagan empires.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does subjection to enemies demonstrate the reversal of God's purposes for His people?
2. What is the relationship between corporate sin and corporate suffering under oppressive powers?
3. How should oppression drive God's people to repentance rather than bitterness?

Interlinear Text

אָוֹיְבֵיכֶם וַיִּלְחַץ וּמְנֻנָּעַ וְתַחַת

also oppressed Their enemies them and they were brought into subjection

H3905

H341

H3665

תַּחַת

H8478

בָּהַדְּבָרִים:

under their hand

H3027