

Psalm 106:43

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Many times did he deliver them; but they provoked him with their counsel, and were brought low for their iniquity.

Analysis

This verse transitions to God's merciful response. 'Many times did he deliver them' emphasizes repeated rescue despite repeated rebellion. God's covenant faithfulness outlasted Israel's unfaithfulness. 'But they provoked him with their counsel' shows that after each deliverance, they returned to rebellion. 'Provoked' again uses marah (מַרָּה), meaning to be rebellious or bitter. 'With their counsel' (etsah, עֵצָה) means with their plans or decisions—they chose rebellion. 'Were brought low for their iniquity' shows that their lowly state resulted from their own sin. The cycle repeats: deliverance → rebellion → judgment → deliverance. Only God's covenant faithfulness explains why He didn't utterly destroy them.

Historical Context

The Book of Judges explicitly describes this cycle: 'And when the LORD raised them up judges, then the LORD was with the judge, and delivered them...And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they returned, and corrupted themselves more than their fathers' (Judges 2:18-19). Despite experiencing God's deliverance repeatedly, each generation returned to idolatry. God's patience endured this cycle for centuries before bringing exile. Even after exile, the pattern continued in lesser forms.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Why does God continue delivering those who repeatedly rebel after each rescue?
2. What does the rebellion-judgment-deliverance cycle teach about human nature?
3. How should God's repeated deliverances affect our response to His grace?

Interlinear Text

times	Many	did he deliver	H1992	them but they provoked
H6471	H7227	H5337		H4784
בָּעֵזֶת מִ	בְּעֵזֶת מִ	בְּעֵזֶת מִ		
him with their counsel	and were brought low	for their iniquity		
H6098	H4355	H5771		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 81:12 (Parallel theme): So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: and they walked in their own counsels.

Psalms 1:1 (Sin): Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.