

Psalm 106:44

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Nevertheless he regarded their affliction, when he heard their cry:

Analysis

This verse shows God's attentiveness to His people despite their rebellion. 'Nevertheless he regarded their affliction' uses *raah* (רָאָה), meaning He saw, looked upon, or paid attention to their distress. 'When he heard their cry' shows God responds to genuine repentance and desperate prayer. Even when affliction was deserved judgment for sin, God remained attentive to their cry. This demonstrates the tension in God's character: He judges sin yet shows mercy to those who cry out. 'Nevertheless' is crucial—it indicates God's response wasn't merited by Israel but flowed from His covenant character. Grace means God sees our affliction even when it's self-inflicted and hears our cry even when we deserve silence.

Historical Context

Throughout Judges, 'the children of Israel cried unto the LORD' when oppression became unbearable, and God raised up deliverers (Judges 3:9, 15; 4:3; 6:6-7; 10:10). This wasn't because Israel deserved rescue but because God's covenant character compelled response. Similarly, in Egypt, God heard their groaning 'and God remembered his covenant' (Exodus 2:24). God's regard for affliction flows from covenant commitment, not human merit.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's responsiveness to our cry demonstrate His covenant faithfulness?
2. What is the difference between repentance that manipulates God versus genuine contrition?
3. How should God's attentiveness to afflicted prayers affect our prayer life?

Interlinear Text

רְבָתָם: אַת בְּשִׁמְעָו וְלֹפֶת בְּאַת רְאֵי יְהָוָה
Nevertheless he regarded their affliction when he heard their cry
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Additional Cross-References

Judges 3:9 (Parallel theme): And when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer to the children of Israel, who delivered them, even Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother.

Judges 4:3 (Parallel theme): And the children of Israel cried unto the LORD: for he had nine hundred chariots of iron; and twenty years he mightily oppressed the children of Israel.

Judges 2:18 (Parallel theme): And when the LORD raised them up judges, then the LORD was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: for it repented the LORD because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them.