

Psalms 106:45

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he remembered for them his covenant, and repented according to the multitude of his mercies.

Analysis

This verse explains the basis of God's merciful response. 'And he remembered for them his covenant' uses *zakar* (זָכַר)—not that God forgot but that He acted according to covenant commitment. God's deliverance flowed from covenant oath, not Israel's merit. 'Repented according to the multitude of his mercies' uses anthropomorphic language—God 'changed His mind' about judgment. 'Repented' (*nacham*, נָחַם) means to relent, have compassion, or change course. 'Multitude of mercies' (*rab chesed*, רַב חֶסֶד) emphasizes abundant covenant love. God's mercy is abundant, multiple, and overflowing. His turning from judgment to mercy isn't fickleness but covenant faithfulness responding to repentance. This teaches that God's salvific actions are rooted in covenant promise, not human deserving.

Historical Context

God's covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob guaranteed blessing despite Israel's failures. Leviticus 26:40-45 promised that even after exile, if they confessed sin, God would 'remember the covenant' and not utterly destroy them. This covenant remembrance explains Israel's survival when other ancient nations disappeared. God's abundant mercies sustained them through deserved judgment, eventually bringing restoration from exile and ultimately sending the Messiah as promised.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's covenant remembrance give hope despite our failures?
2. What does 'multitude of mercies' teach about the abundance of God's compassion?
3. How do God's covenant promises in the Old Testament find ultimate fulfillment in Christ?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּזְכֹּר	לְהָם	בְּרִיתוֹ	וַיִּנְחַם
And he remembered	H1992	for them his covenant	and repented
H2142		H1285	H5162
כְּרַב	חֲסָדָיו:		
according to the multitude	of his mercies		
H7230	H2617		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 105:8 (Covenant): He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations.

Psalms 69:16 (Parallel theme): Hear me, O LORD; for thy lovingkindness is good: turn unto me according to the multitude of thy tender mercies.

2 Kings 13:23 (Covenant): And the LORD was gracious unto them, and had compassion on them, and had respect unto them, because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not destroy them, neither cast he them from his presence as yet.

Judges 2:18 (Repentance): 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.

Isaiah 63:7 (Parallel theme): I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the LORD, and the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD hath bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which he hath bestowed on them according to his mercies, and according to the multitude of his lovingkindnesses.

Psalms 90:13 (Repentance): Return, O LORD, how long? and let it repent thee concerning thy servants.

Psalms 51:1 (Parallel theme): Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

Exodus 32:14 (Repentance): And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.

Lamentations 3:32 (Parallel theme): But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies.