

Psalm 106:46

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He made them also to be pitied of all those that carried them captives.

Analysis

This verse describes an additional mercy beyond deliverance. 'He made them also to be pitied of all those that carried them captives' means God softened oppressors' hearts toward captive Israel. Even in exile and dispersion, God moved pagan rulers to show compassion. This was fulfilled in Persian kings who allowed return and rebuilding (Ezra, Nehemiah), and in various diaspora contexts where Jews found favor. God's sovereignty extends to controlling enemies' attitudes—He can grant favor even in hostile contexts (Proverbs 21:1). This demonstrates that no circumstance is beyond God's reach to show kindness to His people. Even in judgment, mercy intrudes.

Historical Context

Cyrus's decree permitting return from Babylon (Ezra 1:1-4) and providing resources for Temple rebuilding fulfilled this. God 'stirred up the spirit of Cyrus' to act favorably toward Jews. Artaxerxes similarly favored Ezra and Nehemiah. Even during exile, Jews like Daniel, Esther, and Nehemiah found favor in pagan courts. This pattern continued through church history—God grants His persecuted people favor even with hostile authorities, demonstrating His sovereignty and care.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God's ability to grant favor with enemies demonstrate His sovereignty?
2. In what ways have you experienced God's favor in hostile or difficult circumstances?
3. How should this promise affect believers living under oppressive or hostile authorities?

Interlinear Text

ל פָּנִים	לְבָסָמִים	אוֹתָם	לְפָנִים	ל
He made	H853	them also to be pitied	of	H3605
H5414		H7356	H6440	

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 42:12 (Parallel theme): And I will shew mercies unto you, that he may have mercy upon you, and cause you to return to your own land.

Ezra 9:9 (Parallel theme): For we were bondmen; yet our God hath not forsaken us in our bondage, but hath extended mercy unto us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to give us a reviving, to set up the house of our God, and to repair the desolations thereof, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem.

1 Kings 8:50 (Parallel theme): And forgive thy people that have sinned against thee, and all their transgressions wherein they have transgressed against thee, and give them compassion before them who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them:

Nehemiah 1:11 (Parallel theme): O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king's cupbearer.

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