

Psalms 106:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Nevertheless he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power to be known.

Analysis

This verse reveals the theological tension between human sin and divine purpose. Despite Israel's rebellion at the Red Sea (detailed in Exodus 14), God 'saved them for his name's sake.' This phrase is theologically rich: God's deliverance is not primarily motivated by Israel's merit but by His own reputation and character. The salvation is 'for his name's sake' - to demonstrate His power, faithfulness, and covenant loyalty. 'That he might make his mighty power to be known' shows that God's redemptive acts serve a revelatory purpose - they display His attributes to watching nations. This verse establishes a crucial principle: God's saving work ultimately serves His glory and the revelation of His character, even when His people are undeserving. It's a grace that transcends human faithfulness.

Historical Context

The verse references the pivotal Red Sea deliverance (Exodus 14:10-31), when Israel, trapped between Pharaoh's army and the sea, complained bitterly against Moses and God. Rather than abandoning them to their lack of faith, God parted the waters and destroyed the Egyptian army. This event became the foundational salvation narrative for Israel's identity. The phrase 'for his name's sake' connects to God's declaration to Moses in Exodus 3:13-15, where He revealed His covenant name YHWH. God's reputation among the nations was at stake - He had promised Abraham to make his descendants a great nation and to give them the land. The deliverance at the Red Sea demonstrated to Egypt, Canaan, and surrounding

nations that YHWH was supreme. This event established a pattern: God's salvation serves His redemptive purposes in history.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does it mean that God saved Israel 'for his name's sake' rather than because they deserved it?
2. How does this verse challenge human-centered views of salvation that focus primarily on our benefit?
3. Why is it significant that God makes His mighty power known even through the salvation of rebellious people?
4. In what ways does God's commitment to His own name provide more security than if His salvation depended on human faithfulness?
5. How does this principle of saving 'for his name's sake' foreshadow the New Testament doctrine of grace?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּשְׁיַעֲמָם	לְמַעַן	שְׁמִי וְ	אֶת לִי הוֹדֵךְ יְיָ	
Nevertheless he saved	H4616	them for his name's	to be known	H853
H3467		H8034	H3045	
גְּבוּרָתוֹ:				
sake that he might make his mighty power				
H1369				

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 9:16 (Parallel theme): And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to shew in thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.

Ezekiel 20:9 (Parallel theme): But I wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted before the heathen, among whom they were, in whose sight I made myself known unto them, in bringing them forth out of the land of Egypt.

Ezekiel 20:14 (Parallel theme): But I wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted before the heathen, in whose sight I brought them out.

Psalms 111:6 (Parallel theme): He hath shewed his people the power of his works, that he may give them the heritage of the heathen.

Romans 9:17 (Parallel theme): For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.

Ezekiel 20:22 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless I withdrew mine hand, and wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted in the sight of the heathen, in whose sight I brought them forth.

Ezekiel 20:44 (Parallel theme): And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have wrought with you for my name's sake, not according to your wicked ways, nor according to your corrupt doings, O ye house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.

Jeremiah 14:7 (Parallel theme): O LORD, though our iniquities testify against us, do thou it for thy name's sake: for our backslidings are many; we have sinned against thee.

Jeremiah 14:21 (Parallel theme): Do not abhor us, for thy name's sake, do not disgrace the throne of thy glory: remember, break not thy covenant with us.

Exodus 15:6 (Parallel theme): Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.