

Psalms 77:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou hast with thine arm redeemed thy people, the sons of Jacob and Joseph. Selah.

Analysis

Thou hast with thine arm redeemed thy people (גָּאַלְתָּ בְּזְרוֹעַ עַמְּךָ). Ga'al (גָּאַל) is the kinsman-redeemer verb—to redeem, reclaim, or buy back what rightfully belongs to one's family. Zeraa (זְרוֹעַ, arm) represents divine power and strength. The "outstretched arm" becomes shorthand for the exodus deliverance (Exodus 6:6, Deuteronomy 4:34, Psalm 136:12). God personally, powerfully reclaimed His covenant people from bondage.

The sons of Jacob and Joseph (בְּנֵי-יַעֲקֹב וְיוֹסֵף). This unusual pairing (typically "sons of Jacob" or "house of Jacob") highlights Joseph's role in preserving Israel in Egypt (Genesis 45-47). Both patriarchs connect to Egyptian sojourn—Jacob went down, Joseph was already there, and God brought their descendants out. **Selah** invites reflection on redemption's historical specificity. God acts in real history, redeeming actual people from concrete oppression.

Historical Context

The exodus is the Old Testament's defining redemptive event, rehearsed throughout Scripture (Exodus 15, Psalms 78, 105, 106, 135, 136). The "arm of the Lord" demonstrated power over Egypt's gods, Pharaoh's army, and the sea itself. This foreshadows ultimate redemption through Christ, whom Isaiah identifies as the "arm of the LORD" revealed (Isaiah 53:1). Paul applies exodus typology to baptism and the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 10:1-4).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does the *ga'al* (kinsman-redeemer) concept illuminate Christ's redemptive work?
2. What does it mean that God redeemed "with his arm"—emphasizing personal, powerful action?
3. How should remembering exodus redemption shape confidence in God's power to save today?

Interlinear Text

גָּאֵל לְךָ	בְּזֶרְאוֹ	עַמְּךָ	בְּנֵי	יַעֲקֹב	וְיוֹסֵף
redeemed	Thou hast with thine arm	thy people	the sons	of Jacob	and Joseph
H1350	H2220	H5971	H1121	H3290	H3130

סֵלָה:

Selah

H5542

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 6:6 (Redemption): Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments:

Deuteronomy 9:29 (Parallel theme): Yet they are thy people and thine inheritance, which thou broughtest out by thy mighty power and by thy stretched out arm.

Isaiah 63:9 (Redemption): In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.

Psalms 74:2 (Redemption): Remember thy congregation, which thou hast purchased of old; the rod of thine inheritance, which thou hast redeemed; this mount Zion, wherein thou hast dwelt.

Deuteronomy 9:26 (Redemption): I prayed therefore unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, destroy not thy people and thine inheritance, which thou hast redeemed through thy greatness, which thou hast brought forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand.

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