

Psalms 81:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I removed his shoulder from the burden: his hands were delivered from the pots.

Analysis

I removed his shoulder from the burden—God speaks directly, recalling how He lifted the crushing weight (sevel) of brick-making from Israelite shoulders. This physical deliverance from slavery imagery appears throughout Scripture (Exodus 1:11-14, 6:6-7). **His hands were delivered from the pots** (dûd, baskets)—the vessels used to carry clay and bricks for Pharaoh's building projects.

The exodus was fundamentally about exchanging one master for another: from Pharaoh's cruel slavery to the Lord's loving service (Exodus 4:23, 'Let my people go that they may serve me'). This is the gospel pattern—Christ delivers us from sin's burden (Matthew 11:28-30) to take His easy yoke. True freedom isn't autonomy but joyful submission to the right master.

Historical Context

Exodus 1:11-14 describes Israel's brutal forced labor under Egyptian taskmasters, making bricks without straw. This oppression intensified for 80 years until Moses's call. God's deliverance through the ten plagues and Red Sea crossing demonstrated that no human power could prevent His redemptive purpose. The Feast of Unleavened Bread commemorated this sudden liberation (Exodus 12:33-34).

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What burdens and 'baskets' (enslaving habits, false masters) has Christ removed from your shoulders, and do you live in that freedom?
2. How does understanding salvation as 'exchange of masters' rather than 'total autonomy' shape Christian discipleship?
3. In what ways can Christians fall back into 'Egypt's bondage' after initial deliverance, and how is this prevented?

Interlinear Text

תָּעֲבֹרְנָה: מִדְּאֵד כְּפִי שְׁכָמָן מִסְּבָּל הַסִּיר וְתִּי
I removed from the burden his shoulder his hands from the pots were delivered
H5493 H5447 H7926 H3709 H1731 H5674

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 9:4 (Parallel theme): For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian.

Isaiah 10:27 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.

Exodus 6:6 (Parallel theme): 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:

Matthew 11:29 (Parallel theme): Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

