

Ezra 3:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off.

Analysis

The people's inability to 'discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping' creates powerful imagery of mixed emotions—hope and grief, joy and sorrow coexisting. This emotional complexity reflects reality: genuine faith encompasses both delight in God's present mercies and sorrow over lost glory. The 'noise was heard afar off' suggests overwhelming volume—corporate worship expressing authentic feelings loudly and publicly.

Historical Context

The emotional divide between generations reflected different experiences: elderly remembered Solomon's glory, youth knew only exile. Haggai 2:3 later addresses this, acknowledging diminished physical glory while prophesying greater spiritual glory in Christ. The mixed response wasn't divisive but demonstrated diverse legitimate perspectives united in common worship. The noise 'heard afar off' testified to watching nations.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How should churches integrate different generational perspectives on worship, honoring both tradition and contemporary expression?
2. What does Scripture's inclusion of both joy and grief teach about authentic spirituality versus manufactured emotional uniformity?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵין H369	הָעָם H5971	מִכִּירִים H5234	וְהַקּוֹל H6963	תְּרוּעָה H8643
	So that the people	could not discern	and the noise	of the shout
הַשִּׂמְחָה H8057	וְהַקּוֹל H6963	בְּכִי H1065	הָעָם H5971	כִּי H3588
	of joy	and the noise	of the weeping	So that the people
הָעָם H5971	מְרִיעִים H7321	תְּרוּעָה H8643	גְּדוֹלָה H1419	וְהַקּוֹל H6963
	So that the people	shouted	of the shout	with a loud
לְמַחְזֹק H5704				וְהַקּוֹל H6963
	afar off H7350			was heard H8085

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 4:5 (Parallel theme): And when the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel shouted with a great shout, so that the earth rang again.

