

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

תְּרוֹעַ הַיּוֹם וְלֹעֵךְ מִכְּרִים בְּעֵמָה וְאֵין
H369 So that the people could not discern and the noise of the shout
H5971 H5234 H6963 H8643

בְּכָה וְלֹעֵךְ בְּעֵמָה וְאֵין הַשְּׁמַחַת
of joy and the noise of the weeping So that the people H3588
H8057 H6963 H1065 H5971

נִשְׁמַע וְלֹעֵךְ גָּדוֹל הַתְּרוֹעַ מִרְיעִים בְּעֵמָה
So that the people shouted of the shout with a loud and the noise was heard
H5971 H7321 H8643 H1419 H6963 H8085

לְמַרְחֹק: עַד
H5704 afar off
H7350

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.

