

Isaiah 29:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The meek also shall increase their joy in the LORD, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

Analysis

The meek also shall increase their joy in the LORD (וַיִּסְפּוּ אַנְוִיִּים בְּיֵהוָה שִׂמְחָה, veyasfu anavim baYHWH simchah)—the אַנְוִיִּים (anavim, meek, humble, afflicted) will יִסְפּוּ (yasaf, increase, add, multiply) in שִׂמְחָה (simchah, joy). **And the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel** (וְאֶבְיוֹנֵי אָדָם בִּקְדוֹשׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל יִגִּילוּ, ve'evyoney adam biQdosh Yisrael yagilu)—the אֶבְיוֹנִים (evyonim, poor, needy) will גִּיל (gil, rejoice, exult) in the קְדוֹשׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל (Qedosh Yisrael, Holy One of Israel).

Mary's Magnificat echoes this: 'He hath put down the mighty... exalted them of low degree' (Luke 1:52). Jesus's first Beatitude: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit' (Matthew 5:3). The Kingdom inverts worldly hierarchies—the meek inherit earth, the mourning are comforted, the hungry are filled. This isn't romanticizing poverty but recognizing that those without human resources most readily depend on God. The 'poor' Isaiah references are covenant faithful who trust Yahweh despite material lack. Their joy isn't circumstantial but rooted in the Holy One's character.

Historical Context

First-century Judaism divided between wealthy Sadducees (political collaborators) and poor masses. Jesus's ministry focused on the latter—'the poor have the gospel preached to them' (Matthew 11:5). James writes: 'Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith?' (James 2:5). The early church was predominantly poor and enslaved people (1 Corinthians 1:26-28), yet they possessed joy unspeakable.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. Why do the meek and poor often experience deeper joy in the LORD than the self-sufficient?
2. How does material poverty sometimes (not always) position people to receive spiritual riches?
3. In what areas do you need to become 'poor in spirit' to increase in joy?

Interlinear Text

וְיִסָּפּוּ	עֲנֵי יִם	בְּיְהוָה	שִׂמְחָה	וְאֶבְיֹנִי	אֶת מֶלֶךְ
also shall increase	The meek	in the LORD	their joy	and the poor	among men
H3254	H6035	H3068	H8057	H34	H120

בְּקֹדֶשׁ וְשֵׁן	יִשְׂרָאֵל	יִגִּילוּ:
in the Holy One	of Israel	shall rejoice
H6918	H3478	H1523

Additional Cross-References

James 2:5 (Parallel theme): Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

Isaiah 61:1 (References Lord): The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me

to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

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.

Psalms 25:9 (Parallel theme): The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.

Matthew 11:5 (Parallel theme): The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

Matthew 5:5 (Parallel theme): Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Psalms 37:11 (Parallel theme): But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

Matthew 5:3 (Parallel theme): Blessed are the poor in spirit: for their's is the kingdom of heaven.

James 1:9 (Parallel theme): Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted:

Isaiah 61:10 (References Lord): I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.