

Isaiah 30:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye shall have a song, as in the night when a holy solemnity is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one goeth with a pipe to come into the mountain of the LORD, to the mighty One of Israel.

Analysis

Ye shall have a song, as in the night when a holy solemnity is kept—While judgment falls on nations (vv. 27-28), God's people sing. The shiyr (song) is compared to festival nights—specifically hiqqadesh chag (sanctifying a feast), likely Passover when Israel was delivered from Egypt's judgment. The parallel: as Israel sang while Egyptian firstborns died (Exodus 12), so they'll sing when God judges their enemies. **And gladness of heart** (וְשִׂמְחַת לֵבָב)—The joy is internal, heartfelt, not merely external celebration.

As when one goeth with a pipe to come into the mountain of the LORD, to the mighty One of Israel—The chalil (pipe, flute) accompanied pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem for feasts (Psalms 120-134, the 'Songs of Ascents'). The tsur Yisrael (Rock of Israel) is destination and reason for celebration. This verse's emotional tone contrasts sharply with preceding verses: God's fury against nations (vv. 27-28) coexists with His people's festive joy (v. 29). This isn't schadenfreude but recognition that God's justice vindicates the oppressed. When evil is punished, righteousness celebrates. The glorified sing 'Alleluia' at Babylon's fall (Revelation 19:1-3). Properly understood, judgment produces joy in those who longed for justice.

Historical Context

Israel's annual feasts (Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles) were joyful pilgrimages to Jerusalem. Families traveled together, singing psalms, playing instruments, celebrating God's faithfulness. These memories informed Isaiah's vision of eschatological celebration. The contrast between terrifying theophany (vv. 27-28) and joyful worship (v. 29) reflects covenant theology: God is both just Judge and faithful Redeemer, depending on one's relationship to Him.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How can believers balance grief over the wicked's judgment with joy over God's justice being executed?
2. What does it mean to sing 'as in the night when a holy solemnity is kept'—celebrating deliverance during judgment?
3. How do the Psalms of Ascent prepare our hearts for the ultimate pilgrimage to God's presence?

Interlinear Text

הַשִּׁיר	לְכֶם יְהוָה	כָּל יַל	הַתְּקֵדָשׁ	דָּג	
Ye shall have a song	H1961	H0	as in the night	is kept	solemnity
H7892			H3915	H6942	H2282
וְשִׂמְחָה	לִבִּי בְּ	כְהוֹלֵךְ	בְּחֵל יַל	לֵב וְאֵל	בְּהָר
and gladness	of heart	as when one goeth	with a pipe	to come	into the mountain
H8057	H3824	H1980	H2485	H935	H2022
יְהוָה	אֵל	צוּר	יִשְׂרָאֵל:		
of the LORD	H413	to the mighty One	of Israel		
H3068		H6697	H3478		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 42:4 (Holy): When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday.

Isaiah 2:3 (References Lord): And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Isaiah 26:4 (References Lord): Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:

Deuteronomy 32:4 (Parallel theme): He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.