

Proverbs 8:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men.

Analysis

Wisdom rejoiced in God's inhabited earth, delighting in humanity. The Hebrew 'sachaq' (rejoice/play) and 'sha'shua' (delight) describe joyful engagement. Wisdom's delight extends from fellowship with God (v.30) to creation and especially humanity. This anticipates incarnation - Christ's joy in taking human form, dwelling among us. The Word who created humanity delighted in becoming human.

Historical Context

This verse beautifully prefigures Christ's incarnation. The eternal Wisdom who delighted in humanity from creation further demonstrated that delight by becoming human (John 1:14). Hebrews 2:14 explains Christ 'took part of the same' (flesh and blood) to redeem humanity. His incarnation wasn't reluctant duty but joyful delight - 'For the joy that was set before him endured the cross' (Hebrews 12:2).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's delight in humanity affect your understanding of your value and dignity?
2. What does it reveal about God that Wisdom rejoiced in dwelling among humans?
3. How should Christ's joy in incarnation and redemption shape your joy in serving Him?

Interlinear Text

מ שְׁחַקְתָּ	בַּתָּבְלִי	אֶרֶץ וְ	אֶת שְׁאַשְׁעָרִי
Rejoicing	in the habitable part	of his earth	and my delights
H7832	H8398	H776	H8191
בְּנֵי אָדָם			
were with the sons	of men		
H1121	H120		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 16:3 (Light): But to the saints that are in the earth, and to the excellent, in whom is all my delight.

John 13:1 (Parallel theme): Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.