

Psalm 118:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tabernacles of the righteous: the right hand of the LORD doeth valiantly.

Analysis

The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tabernacles of the righteous: the right hand of the LORD doeth valiantly. This verse transitions from battle narrative to victory celebration. Kol rinah vishu'ah b'aholei tzadikim (voice of ringing cry and salvation in tents of the righteous). Rinah (ringing cry/shout) describes loud jubilation, celebratory shouting, triumphant praise—not quiet private thanks but public, exuberant victory celebration. Yeshu'ah (salvation) indicates deliverance, victory, rescue—the same root as Jesus's name (Yeshua). Aholei tzadikim (tents/dwellings of the righteous) suggests both individual households and corporate worship spaces where God's people gather.

The cause of celebration: **the right hand of the LORD doeth valiantly** (y'min YHWH osah chayil). Y'min (right hand) symbolizes power, strength, active intervention—God's mighty arm accomplishing deliverance. Osah chayil (does valiantly) means acts with strength, accomplishes mighty deeds, displays power. Verse 16 repeats this twice more, creating threefold emphasis on God's powerful right hand. This imagery pervades Scripture: God's right hand saved Israel at the Red Sea (Exodus 15:6, 12), supports the righteous (Psalm 18:35), holds believers secure (Psalm 63:8), and seats Christ in exaltation (Psalm 110:1, Hebrews 1:3).

Historical Context

Victory celebrations were central to Israelite culture following military triumph. Miriam led women in dancing and singing after the Red Sea crossing (Exodus

15:20-21). David and Israel celebrated Goliath's defeat with singing (1 Samuel 18:6-7). Jehoshaphat appointed singers to praise God before battle, and they returned with joy after victory (2 Chronicles 20:21-28). Temple worship included celebratory psalms recounting God's mighty acts (Psalms 105-106, 135-136). The 'tabernacles' (tents) may reference the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot), Israel's most joyous festival, celebrated in temporary booths commemorating wilderness wandering and God's provision. The New Testament shows similar patterns: angels announced Christ's birth with joyful proclamation (Luke 2:13-14), early Christians gathered in homes for joyful fellowship (Acts 2:46-47), and heaven resounds with victory songs (Revelation 5:9-14, 15:2-4).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does corporate celebration of God's deliverance ('in the tabernacles') strengthen individual faith and community witness?
2. In what specific ways has God's 'right hand' done valiantly in your life, providing salvation and deliverance worth celebrating?
3. How can believers cultivate joyful, public testimony to God's mighty acts rather than privatizing praise?

Interlinear Text

קֹל וְלֹא רָגַב הַיְשׁוּעַ הַבְּאָמָל יְמִינָה יְמִינָה
The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tabernacles of the righteous
H6963 H7440 H3444 H168 H6662

קַיִל עַשְׂתָה יְמִינָה יְמִינָה
the right hand of the LORD doeth valiantly
H3225 H3068 H6213 H2428

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 89:13 (Parallel theme): Thou hast a mighty arm: strong is thy hand, and high is thy right hand.

Psalms 60:12 (Parallel theme): Through God we shall do valiantly: for he it is that shall tread down our enemies.

Revelation 18:20 (Parallel theme): Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.

Isaiah 65:13 (References Lord): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, my servants shall eat, but ye shall be hungry: behold, my servants shall drink, but ye shall be thirsty: behold, my servants shall rejoice, but ye shall be ashamed:

Acts 16:34 (Parallel theme): And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.

Psalms 98:1 (References Lord): O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.

Exodus 15:6 (References Lord): Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.

Luke 1:51 (Parallel theme): He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

Psalms 68:3 (Righteousness): But let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God: yea, let them exceedingly rejoice.

Psalms 119:111 (Parallel theme): Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart.

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