

Psalms 119:130

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

Analysis

"Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law." The vivid imagery *palgei mayim yardu einai* (rivers of water descend from my eyes) describes torrential weeping. *Peleg* means stream, channel, watercourse—not mere tears but flowing streams. The cause: *al lo shamru toratekha* (because they have not kept your law). The psalmist weeps not over personal suffering but others' disobedience to God. This echoes Jeremiah's grief ("Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!" Jeremiah 9:1), Jesus weeping over Jerusalem (Luke 19:41-44), and Paul's tears for enemies of the cross (Philippians 3:18). Godly grief over sin—especially corporate sin—marks mature spirituality. Contrasts with self-righteous judgment or indifferent tolerance.

Historical Context

Prophets regularly wept over Israel's covenant unfaithfulness—Jeremiah called the "weeping prophet" for lamenting Judah's sin and coming judgment. Ezekiel mourned Israel's idolatry (Ezekiel 9:4-6). Nehemiah wept upon hearing Jerusalem's walls remained broken (Nehemiah 1:4). This grief reflected both love for God (whose honor was trampled) and love for people (facing judgment). Post-exile, renewed covenant faithfulness produced corresponding grief when backsliding recurred. The New Testament similarly records apostolic tears over false teaching and worldliness (Acts 20:31, 2 Corinthians 2:4, 2 Timothy 1:4).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Do you grieve over society's disregard for God's law, or has cultural sin become normalized in your mind?
2. What is the difference between godly grief over sin and self-righteous judgment?
3. How can believers cultivate holy grief while avoiding both indifference and despair?

Interlinear Text

פֶּתַח	דְּבַר יְיָ	יָא יר	מִבִּין	פְּתִיִּים:
The entrance	of thy words	giveth light	it giveth understanding	unto the simple
H6608	H1697	H215	H995	H6612

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:105 (Word): Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Proverbs 6:23 (Word): For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:

2 Corinthians 4:6 (Light): For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Acts 26:18 (Light): To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Psalms 19:7 (Word): The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

2 Peter 1:19 (Word): We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

2 Corinthians 4:4 (Light): In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Isaiah 8:20 (Word): To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

Proverbs 1:4 (Parallel theme): To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.