

Psalm 119:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches.

Analysis

I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches. Here the psalmist expresses extraordinary delight in Scripture. **Rejoiced** (sasti, שָׁשַׁת) conveys exultation and joy, not mere intellectual appreciation. The object is **the way of thy testimonies** (derek edotekha, דֶּרֶךְ עֲדֹתֶךָ)—not just the content of God's testimonies but the path of living according to them. **Testimonies** (edot, עֲדּוֹת) are God's witnesses to His character and covenant faithfulness.

The comparison to **all riches** (kol-hon, כָּל-הָנָן) is striking. The psalmist values God's Word more than unlimited material wealth—the very treasures most people pursue with passion. This echoes verse 72's declaration that God's law is better than thousands of gold and silver pieces. Jesus would later teach that the kingdom of heaven is like a treasure worth selling everything to obtain (Matthew 13:44), and Paul counted all things as loss compared to knowing Christ (Philippians 3:8).

Historical Context

In the ancient world, wealth meant security, status, and power. Riches could purchase protection, influence, and comfort. For the psalmist to value God's testimonies equally suggests a radical reorientation of values. This counter-cultural perspective would have challenged Israel's frequent temptation to pursue material prosperity through political alliances and economic opportunism rather than covenant faithfulness.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. Do you genuinely rejoice in Scripture with the same intensity that people pursue wealth and success?
2. What practical changes would occur in your life if you truly valued God's Word as much as financial security?
3. How can you cultivate deeper joy in obeying God's testimonies rather than viewing them as restrictive obligations?

Interlinear Text

בְּדַרְכֵךְ עַדְوتֵיכֶם שָׁתֵּיתִ כַּל הַזֶּה
in the way of thy testimonies I have rejoiced as much as in all riches
H1870 H5715 H7797 H5921 H3605 H1952

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 13:44 (Parallel theme): Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

Psalms 119:162 (Parallel theme): I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.

Jeremiah 15:16 (Parallel theme): Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

Psalms 112:1 (Parallel theme): Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.

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

Psalms 119:127 (Parallel theme): Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold.

Job 23:12 (Parallel theme): Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.

Psalms 119:72 (Parallel theme): The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver.

Psalms 119:77 (Parallel theme): Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for thy law is my delight.

Psalms 119:47 (Parallel theme): And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved.