

Psalm 119:162

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.

Analysis

I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil (שָׁשׁ אָנֹכִי עַל-אֶתְמַתְּךָ כָּמוֹצָא) — *Sus* means 'exult, rejoice, be glad.' *Shalal* is battle plunder, war spoil, the victor's bounty. *Rav* intensifies: 'abundant, great, much.' The psalmist's joy over *imrah* (word, utterance, promise) matches a warrior's elation over rich battlefield plunder.

This echoes Jeremiah 15:16: 'Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart.' Jesus embodies this in His wilderness temptation, valuing God's Word above bread (Matthew 4:4).

Historical Context

Ancient warfare made spoil a primary economic motivation (Judges 5:30; 1 Samuel 30:16). The comparison isn't about greed but about unexpected treasure after costly battle. The psalmist has fought to maintain Word-loyalty (v. 161); now he discovers the Word itself as his reward—more valuable than all material gain.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What would it look like practically to rejoice over Scripture as though you'd found 'great spoil' after battle?
2. How does comparing God's Word to battle plunder challenge consumeristic or merely sentimental views of Bible reading?
3. In what ways is the joy of discovering truth in Scripture similar to unexpected treasure after costly struggle?

Interlinear Text

בָּרְךָ	שָׁלֵל	כִּי מָוֵץ	אָמְרָתְךָ	אָנָכִי	עַל	בְּ	שָׁשֶׁ
I rejoice	H595	H5921	at thy word	as one that findeth	spoil	great	

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 15:16 (Word): 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 119:72 (Word): The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver.

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

1 Samuel 30:16 (Parallel theme): And when he had brought him down, behold, they were spread abroad upon all the earth, eating and drinking, and dancing, because of all the great spoil that they had taken out of the land of the Philistines, and out of the land of Judah.

Isaiah 9:3 (Parallel theme): Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

