

Psalms 126:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them.

Analysis

The response to restoration is described: 'Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them.' The temporal 'then' connects directly to restoration (v. 1). The physical descriptions 'mouth filled with laughter' and 'tongue with singing' emphasize overflow of joy that must express itself audibly. Laughter and singing are spontaneous responses to overwhelming happiness. The verse then notes witness impact: 'among the heathen' (nations), observers acknowledged 'the LORD hath done great things.' Even pagans recognized divine intervention. The phrase 'great things' (Hebrew 'hagdil la'asot') means to act magnificently or do wonders. Restoration wasn't subtle; it was undeniably miraculous, providing witness to surrounding nations. God's acts toward His people testify to His character, potentially drawing others to Him.

Historical Context

Israel's return from exile astonished surrounding nations. Babylon's fall to Persia and Cyrus's unprecedented decree allowing displaced peoples to return testified to divine providence. The rebuilding of Jerusalem and temple, despite opposition (Ezra, Nehemiah), demonstrated supernatural enabling. These acts provided powerful witness to God's faithfulness and power.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do 'laughter' and 'singing' differ from more restrained expressions of joy? Why are both mentioned?
2. What does it mean for mouth to be 'filled' with these responses - what does this suggest about the intensity of joy?
3. How does God's work toward His people serve as witness to unbelievers?
4. What 'great things' has God done in your life that have been visible to non-believers?
5. How should awareness that others observe God's work in our lives shape our testimony?

Interlinear Text

אָז	יִמְלֵא	שָׁח וּלְק	פִּינוּ	וּלְשׁוֹן נוּ	הָ הָ הָ	
H227	filled	with laughter	Then was our mouth	and our tongue	with singing	
	H4390	H7814	H6310	H3956	H7440	
אָז	יֹאמַר וְ	בְּגוֹיִם	הַגְּדֹת יל	יְהוָה	לַעֲשׂוֹת	עִם
H227	then said	they among the heathen	great things	The LORD	hath done	H5973
	H559	H1471	H1431	H3068	H6213	
אֱלֹהִים:						
H428						

Additional Cross-References

Job 8:21 (Parallel theme): Till he fill thy mouth with laughing, and thy lips with rejoicing.

Isaiah 35:10 (References Lord): And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Psalms 71:19 (Parallel theme): Thy righteousness also, O God, is very high, who hast done great things: O God, who is like unto thee!

Jeremiah 33:11 (References Lord): The voice of joy, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the voice of them that shall say, Praise the LORD of hosts: for the LORD is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: and of them that shall bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the LORD. For I will cause to return the captivity of the land, as at the first, saith the LORD.

Nehemiah 6:16 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard thereof, and all the heathen that were about us saw these things, they were much cast down in their own eyes: for they perceived that this work was wrought of our God.

Psalms 53:6 (Parallel theme): Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion! When God bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad.