

Psalm 132:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness; and let thy saints shout for joy.

Analysis

The prayer continues with request for priestly blessing: 'Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness; and let thy saints shout for joy.' The phrase 'thy priests' refers to Levitical priests who ministered in God's presence. 'Be clothed with righteousness' uses metaphor of garments - priests literally wore special garments (Exodus 28), but here righteousness is their clothing. Righteousness (*tsedek*) means justice, rightness, conformity to God's character. The prayer asks that priests minister with moral integrity and proper devotion, not merely external rituals. The parallel 'let thy saints shout for joy' extends blessing beyond priests to all God's faithful people (*chasidim* - those characterized by *chesed*/covenant love). The response to God's presence is joy - shouting (*ranan*) suggests loud, exuberant praise. When priests minister righteously and God's presence dwells among His people, joy naturally follows.

Historical Context

Priestly righteousness was essential for acceptable worship (Leviticus 10:1-3; Malachi 2:5-7). Wicked priests brought judgment (1 Samuel 2:12-17). David organized priestly divisions for temple service (1 Chronicles 24). The prayer anticipates proper, joyful worship in the temple with righteous priests leading God's people. Solomon echoed this prayer at temple dedication (2 Chronicles 6:41).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What does it mean for priests to be 'clothed with righteousness' versus clothed with mere ritual garments?
2. How does priestly righteousness affect the congregation's joy?
3. Who are 'thy saints' and why do they shout for joy when God dwells among them?
4. How does Christ fulfill the role of righteous priest perfectly (Hebrews 7:26-28)?
5. In what ways should Christian leaders be 'clothed with righteousness,' and what effect does this have?

Interlinear Text

לְבָשֹׂו	אַל-	בָּשָׂר	תִּבְשַׂר	יְבָשָׂה
Let thy priests	be clothed	with righteousness	and let thy saints	shout for joy
H3548	H3847	H6664	H2623	H7442

Additional Cross-References

Job 29:14 (Righteousness): I put on righteousness, and it clothed me: my judgment was as a robe and a diadem.

Revelation 19:8 (Righteousness): And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

Isaiah 61:10 (Righteousness): I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath

covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

Psalms 93:1 (Parallel theme): The LORD reigneth, he is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed with strength, wherewith he hath girded himself: the world also is established, that it cannot be moved.

Psalms 132:16 (Holy): I will also clothe her priests with salvation: and her saints shall shout aloud for joy.

Psalms 104:1 (Parallel theme): Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty.

Zechariah 9:9 (Righteousness): Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

1 Peter 5:5 (Parallel theme): Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.