

Psalm 149:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.

Analysis

Let Israel rejoice in him that made him (ישמח ישׁׁבָּאֵל בָּעָשָׂו) — The verb *samach* (to rejoice) commands covenant celebration rooted in creation theology. Israel's joy flows not from circumstances but from identity as God's handiwork. *Osav* (his Maker) recalls Isaiah 43:15 and 54:5, where God is both Creator and Redeemer. This is corporate worship—'Israel' collectively rejoicing in their covenant relationship.

Let the children of Zion be joyful in their King (בְּנֵי־צִוָּן גִּילּוֹ בְּמֶלֶךְ) — The parallel intensifies: *gil* (to be joyful) suggests exuberant, visible celebration. 'Children of Zion' emphasizes inheritance of covenant promises and participation in temple worship. **Their King** acknowledges Yahweh's theocratic rule, fulfilled eschatologically in Christ who enters Zion as King (Zechariah 9:9, Matthew 21:5). This verse grounds praise in theological realities: God as Creator-King who initiated and sustains covenant relationship.

Historical Context

Psalm 149 is one of the final 'Hallelujah Psalms' (146-150) that conclude the Psalter with concentrated praise. These psalms likely accompanied post-exilic temple worship when Israel, restored from Babylon, celebrated Yahweh's faithfulness. The emphasis on kingship reflects the period when Israel had no earthly monarch but reaffirmed God's eternal reign. Rejoicing 'in their Maker'

would resonate particularly with a community re-establishing national identity after exile.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does grounding joy in God as Creator-King rather than circumstances change your response to trials?
2. In what ways does corporate worship ('Israel,' 'children of Zion') strengthen individual faith that private devotion cannot?
3. What does it mean practically to rejoice in God's kingship when earthly authorities disappoint or oppress?

Interlinear Text

בָּרוּךְ יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה
rejoice Let Israel in him that made him let the children of Zion be joyful
H8055 H3478 H6213 H1121 H6726 H1523

בְּמַלְכֵם:

in their King

H4428

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 52:7 (Kingdom): How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

Isaiah 54:5 (References Israel): For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.

Psalms 95:6 (Parallel theme): O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

Job 35:10 (Parallel theme): But none saith, Where is God my maker, who giveth songs in the night;

Zechariah 9:9 (Kingdom): 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.

Luke 19:38 (Kingdom): Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.

Joel 2:23 (Parallel theme): Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.

Psalms 47:6 (Kingdom): Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises.

Deuteronomy 12:7 (Parallel theme): And there ye shall eat before the LORD your God, and ye shall rejoice in all that ye put your hand unto, ye and your households, wherein the LORD thy God hath blessed thee.

1 Samuel 12:22 (Parallel theme): For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people.