

Psalm 149:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds.

Analysis

"Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds." The call: ya'letzu chasidim b'khavod (let exult the faithful ones in glory). Alatz (exult/rejoice/triumph) indicates exuberant joy. Chasid (faithful/godly one); kavod (glory/honor/weight) refers either to the glory God gives His people or glory in God's presence. Yeranenu al mishkevotam (let them sing aloud upon their beds). Ranan (sing/shout for joy) indicates loud, joyful singing. Mishkav (bed/couch) suggests private, intimate setting. Even in private moments—waking, resting, lying down—saints should burst into joyful song. Worship isn't confined to corporate assembly but overflows into every setting, even the bedroom. Psalm 42:8 similarly speaks of God's song in the night.

Historical Context

Ancient Jewish piety included prayers and blessings throughout the day—morning, evening, meals, various occasions. The Shema was recited lying down and rising up (Deuteronomy 6:7). Midnight prayer appears in Acts 16:25 (Paul and Silas singing in prison). Monastic traditions developed fixed-hour prayer (offices). The Reformers encouraged morning and evening household devotions. Puritan practice emphasized "closet" (private) prayer. The verse encourages pervasive worship—joy in God's glory overflowing into all settings, including the most private. Whether public assembly or private chamber, saints sing God's praises.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How can you cultivate joyful worship in private settings, not just corporate gatherings?
2. What does singing "upon beds" suggest about worship's comprehensiveness—encompassing all of life?
3. What hindrances prevent exuberant joy in God's glory, and how can these be overcome?

Interlinear Text

מִשְׁכְּבָתֶם: עַל בְּכָבֵד יְמִינְךָ יְמִינָה ! רְגֵב וְלִבְכָּבֵד יְמִינְךָ יְמִינָה
be joyful Let the saints in glory let them sing aloud upon their beds
H5937 H2623 H3519 H7442 H5921 H4904

Additional Cross-References

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

Psalms 42:8 (Parallel theme): Yet the LORD will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life.

Psalms 145:10 (Holy): All thy works shall praise thee, O LORD; and thy saints shall bless thee.

Psalms 118:15 (Parallel theme): The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tabernacles of the righteous: the right hand of the LORD doeth valiantly.

1 Peter 1:8 (Glory): Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

Psalms 23:1 (Parallel theme): The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

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

Psalms 92:2 (Parallel theme): To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night,

Romans 5:2 (Glory): By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

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