

Psalm 21:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For thou hast made him most blessed for ever: thou hast made him exceeding glad with thy countenance.

Analysis

The king is 'most blessed' not through his own righteousness but through God's gracious favor. The Hebrew word for 'blessed' (barak) emphasizes divine empowerment. Reformed theology recognizes this as an expression of union with Christ—believers are blessed 'in Him' (Eph. 1:3). The 'exceeding gladness' comes from God's countenance (presence), the ultimate source of joy, not circumstances or achievements.

Historical Context

In ancient Near Eastern culture, a king's happiness was measured by military victories and material prosperity. This psalm reorients blessing to relationship with God—joy comes from God's presence, not possessions.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Where do you seek your ultimate happiness—God's presence or His gifts?
2. How does meditating on God's face (presence) transform your daily joy?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	תִּשְׁתַּחַת	הַו	בְּרוּכָה	וְתִּתְּהַנֵּן	לְעֵד	תִּמְךְ	הַו
H3588	For thou hast made	H7896	him most blessed	H1293	for ever	H5703	thou hast made
							H2302

בְּשִׁמְךָ	הַ	אַתָּה	בְּשִׁמְךָ	הַ	פְּנֵיכֶן
him exceeding glad	H8057	H854	with thy countenance	H6440	

Additional Cross-References

Acts 2:28 (Creation): Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.

Psalms 45:7 (Parallel theme): Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

Psalms 16:11 (Parallel theme): Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

Acts 3:26 (Blessing): Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

Ephesians 1:3 (Blessing): Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

Galatians 3:14 (Blessing): That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Galatians 3:9 (Blessing): So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

Psalms 43:4 (Parallel theme): Then will I go unto the altar of God, unto God my exceeding joy: yea, upon the harp will I praise thee, O God my God.

Genesis 12:2 (Blessing): And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

