

Psalms 31:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I will be glad and rejoice in thy mercy: for thou hast considered my trouble; thou hast known my soul in adversities;

Analysis

I will be glad and rejoice in thy mercy: for thou hast considered my trouble; thou hast known my soul in adversities. David moves from petition to praise, demonstrating faith that rejoices before deliverance because God's mercy is already at work in acknowledging suffering.

The future tense (I will be glad) based on past tense (thou hast considered) reveals faith's logic. David chooses joy based on God's attention. Thy mercy (hesed) is covenant lovingkindness—loyal, steadfast love that never abandons. David rejoices not in relief but in unchanging divine character.

Thou hast considered uses Hebrew ra'ah—to see with understanding and purpose. God sees, understands, and acts for His suffering children. Thou hast known my soul intensifies this—God knows intimately, experientially, the depths of David's adversity.

Reformed theology emphasizes God's particular, electing love. He specifically sees and knows each chosen one in individual afflictions. This personal knowledge grounds Christian assurance.

Historical Context

God considering and knowing suffering echoes Exodus 3:7—God saw Israel's affliction and knew their sorrows. David places himself in redemptive history.

Ancient Near Eastern laments moved from complaint to confidence. David deepens this theologically—confidence rests on God's covenantal character (*hesed*), not past miracles alone. Covenant mercy is unchanging foundation for joy amid unchanging circumstances.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How can you practice choosing gladness based on God's character before circumstances improve?
2. What does it mean that God 'considers' your troubles with thoughtful engagement?
3. How does God's knowing your soul in adversity differ from human sympathy?
4. In what ways does covenant theology provide deeper security than circumstantial blessings?
5. How does David's example challenge expectations for immediate relief from suffering?

Interlinear Text

אֶגְיִלָּה	וְאֶשְׂמְחָה	בְּחַסְדְּךָ	אֵשֶׁר	כָּאֵיִתְּ	אֵת
I will be glad	and rejoice	in thy mercy	H834	for thou hast considered	H853
H1523	H8055	H2617		H7200	
עָנִי	יָדָעְתָּ	בְּצָרֹת	נַפְשִׁי		
my trouble	thou hast known	in adversities	my soul		
H6040	H3045	H6869	H5315		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 49:13 (Grace): Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the LORD hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted.

Isaiah 63:9 (Parallel theme): In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.

Psalms 119:153 (Parallel theme): Consider mine affliction, and deliver me: for I do not forget thy law.

Galatians 4:9 (Parallel theme): But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?

Isaiah 63:16 (Parallel theme): Doubtless thou art our father, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not: thou, O LORD, art our father, our redeemer; thy name is from everlasting.

2 Timothy 2:19 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

Isaiah 43:2 (Parallel theme): When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

Psalms 71:20 (Parallel theme): Thou, which hast shewed me great and sore troubles, shalt quicken me again, and shalt bring me up again from the depths of the earth.

Psalms 142:3 (Parallel theme): When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then thou knewest my path. In the way wherein I walked have they privily laid a snare for me.

Lamentations 3:50 (Parallel theme): Till the LORD look down, and behold from heaven.

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