

Psalms 37:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

Analysis

Jesus directly quotes this verse in Matthew 5:5, making it foundational to understanding Kingdom values. 'Meek' (Hebrew 'anav,' humble, afflicted) doesn't mean weakness but strength under God's control—those who refuse self-assertion, trusting God's vindication. Inheriting the earth reverses worldly expectations where the aggressive seize possessions. The phrase 'abundance of peace' (Hebrew 'shalom,' wholeness, completeness) suggests comprehensive flourishing—not merely absence of conflict but positive blessing in all dimensions of life.

Historical Context

Meekness was culturally despised as weakness in honor-based societies. David's elevation of meekness as virtue anticipates Christ's kingdom where divine values invert human hierarchies.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do you practice meekness (strength under control) rather than either aggression or passivity?
2. What would 'abundance of peace' look like in your current circumstances?

Interlinear Text

וְעַנְוִים יִרְשׁוּ	אֶת הָאֲרֶצַּח	וְהִתְעַנְּגוּ	עַל
But the meek	shall inherit	the earth	and shall delight
H6035	H3423	H776	H5921
וּבְאַבְרָכָה	שְׁלוֹמָם:		
themselves in the abundance	of peace		
H7230	H7965		

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 5:5 (Parallel theme): Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Isaiah 26:3 (Peace): Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

James 3:13 (Parallel theme): Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

Psalms 119:165 (Peace): Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

Isaiah 48:18 (Peace): O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea:

1 Timothy 6:11 (Parallel theme): But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

Philippians 4:7 (Peace): And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Psalms 36:8 (Parallel theme): They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.

Psalms 72:7 (Peace): In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth.

James 1:21 (Parallel theme): Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

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