

Psalm 4:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in the time
that their corn and their wine increased.

Analysis

Here David contrasts worldly joy with divine joy. The gladness God gives surpasses the happiness found in abundant harvests ('corn and their wine increased'). This isn't otherworldly spirituality disconnected from material reality - David acknowledges that harvests bring legitimate joy. Yet God-given gladness transcends and exceeds even life's greatest earthly pleasures. The Hebrew 'simchah' (gladness) describes deep, abiding joy rooted in God's character, not circumstances. This anticipates Jesus's promise of fullness of joy (John 15:11).

Historical Context

In agricultural Israel, harvest time was the pinnacle of yearly celebration and prosperity. For David to claim greater joy than this massive cultural high point was radical. Written possibly during his exile when he had nothing, yet possessed everything in God. This demonstrates that true joy is not circumstantial but relational.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What worldly pleasures are you tempted to prioritize over joy in God's presence?
2. How can you cultivate heart satisfaction in God when material circumstances are difficult?

Interlinear Text

לְתַתִּ מִ	מִעֵד	בַּלְבָד	שְׁמַחַת	הַנִּתְתַּתְּ פָּתָח	תְּמִימָנָה	תְּמִימָנָה
Thou hast put	gladness	in my heart	more than in the time	that their corn		
H5414	H8057	H3820	H6256	H1715		

רְבָבָה	וְתִירְאֹשׁ	מִ
and their wine	increased	
H8492	H7231	

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 9:3 (Parallel theme): Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

Psalms 37:4 (Parallel theme): Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

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.

Acts 14:17 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

Psalms 92:4 (Parallel theme): For thou, LORD, hast made me glad through thy work: I will triumph in the works of thy hands.

Song of Solomon 1:4: Draw me, we will run after thee: the king hath brought me into his chambers: we will be glad and rejoice in thee, we will remember thy love more than wine: the upright love thee.

Jeremiah 48:33 (Parallel theme): And joy and gladness is taken from the plentiful field, and from the land of Moab; and I have caused wine to fail from the winepresses: none shall tread with shouting; their shouting shall be no shouting.

Judges 9:27 (Parallel theme): And they went out into the fields, and gathered their vineyards, and trode the grapes, and made merry, and went into the house of their god, and did eat and drink, and cursed Abimelech.

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