

Psalms 42:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday.

Analysis

The psalmist remembers going 'with the multitude' to 'the house of God' with 'the voice of joy and praise.' This memory intensifies present sorrow through contrast. The Hebrew *hamon* (multitude, crowd) suggests the joyful noise of pilgrim festivals. Exile from corporate worship compounds the suffering of physical distress.

Historical Context

Israel's pilgrimage festivals (Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles) gathered the nation at Jerusalem. Being cut off from these gatherings meant exile from God's presence and covenant community, a spiritual death.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Why does remembering past spiritual experiences sometimes intensify present sorrow?
2. What does this verse teach about the importance of corporate worship?

Interlinear Text

אֶלֶּה H428	אֶזְכֹּר הוּא H2142	וְאֶשְׂפֹּךְ הוּא H8210	עַל יְיָ H5921	נַפְשִׁי יְיָ H3588 H5315	
אֶעֱבֹר רֵא H5674	בְּסֵךְ H5519	אֵינִי עַד H1718	עִם H5704	יְיָ יֵת H1004	
אֵלֹהִים H430	בְּקוֹל H6963	רֵנָּה H7440	וְתוֹדָה H8426	חֲמֻדָּה H1995	חֻלְדָּה H2287
of God	with the voice	of joy	and praise	with a multitude	that kept holyday

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 30:29 (Holy): Ye shall have a song, as in the night when a holy solemnity is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one goeth with a pipe to come into the mountain of the LORD, to the mighty One of Israel.

Psalms 62:8 (References God): Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah.

Psalms 122:1 (Parallel theme): I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.

Psalms 100:4 (Resurrection): Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

Psalms 55:14 (References God): We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company.

Nahum 1:15 (Parallel theme): Behold upon the mountains the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace! O Judah, keep thy solemn feasts, perform thy vows: for the wicked shall no more pass through thee; he is utterly cut off.

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