

Psalms 67:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth.
Selah.

Analysis

The call for nations to 'be glad and sing for joy' grounds joy in God's character as righteous judge and shepherd. 'Thou shalt judge the people righteously' promises impartial justice—God shows no favoritism based on nationality, wealth, or status (Deuteronomy 10:17). 'Govern the nations upon earth' asserts God's sovereign rule over all political powers. This provides comfort to the oppressed and warning to oppressors: ultimate justice comes from God's throne, not human courts.

Historical Context

Written when Israel often suffered under unjust foreign powers, this psalm affirms that God's righteous governance supersedes all earthly authorities. His judgment is both present (providential guidance) and future (final assize).

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God's promise to judge righteously affect your response to injustice in the world?
2. What does it mean practically that God 'governs' the nations—how does His sovereignty work through and despite human governments?
3. How can you cultivate joy that's rooted in God's character rather than dependent on favorable circumstances?

Interlinear Text

וְיִשְׂמַח וְ	וְיִרְנֵן וְ	וְלֵאמֹר יִם	כִּי	תִשְׁפֹּט ט	עַם יִם
be glad	and sing for joy	O let the nations	H3588	for thou shalt judge	the people
H8055	H7442	H3816		H8199	H5971
מִיֶּשֶׁר ר	וְלֵאמֹר יִם	בָּאָהָרָץ	תִּנְהֵם	סְלֵה:	
righteously	O let the nations	upon earth	and govern	Selah	
H4334	H3816	H776	H5148	H5542	

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 98:9 (Righteousness): Before the LORD; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.

Psalms 9:8 (Righteousness): And he shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness.

Psalms 82:6 (Parallel theme): I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High.

Isaiah 55:4 (Parallel theme): Behold, I have given him for a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people.

Psalms 2:8 (Parallel theme): Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.

Romans 2:5 (Righteousness): But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

Genesis 18:25 (Righteousness): That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

Deuteronomy 32:43 (Parallel theme): Rejoice, O ye nations, with his people: for he will avenge the blood of his servants, and will render vengeance to his adversaries, and will be merciful unto his land, and to his people.

Acts 17:31 (Righteousness): Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Galatians 4:27 (Parallel theme): For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband.