

Psalms 68:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God:
yea, let them exceedingly rejoice.

Analysis

In stark contrast to the wicked's demise, 'the righteous shall be glad' in God's presence. The threefold description—glad, rejoice, exceedingly joyful—builds to climax, emphasizing uninhibited celebration. This joy isn't based on circumstantial prosperity but on covenant relationship with God. The righteous find their greatest pleasure in God Himself, His presence their highest reward. This anticipates Jesus's teaching that the pure in heart shall see God (Matthew 5:8).

Historical Context

Joyful celebration marked Israel's festivals—Passover, Tabernacles, and especially the ark's procession into Jerusalem under David (2 Samuel 6). These occasions reminded God's people that His presence is the source of all true joy.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What is the relationship between righteousness (right standing with God) and joy in His presence?

2. How does your personal experience of joy in God compare to your joy in His blessings or gifts?
3. In what ways can corporate worship cultivate 'exceeding joy' in God's presence?

Interlinear Text

וְצַדִּיק יִשְׂמַח	וְיִשְׂמַח	וְיִשְׂמַח	וְיִשְׂמַח	וְיִשְׂמַח	וְיִשְׂמַח
But let the righteous	be glad	let them rejoice	before	God	rejoice
H6662	H8055	H5970	H6440	H430	H7797
וְיִשְׂמַח					
yea let them exceedingly					
H8057					

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 64:10 (Righteousness): The righteous shall be glad in the LORD, and shall trust in him; and all the upright in heart shall glory.

1 Thessalonians 5:16 (Parallel theme): Rejoice evermore.

Revelation 18:20 (References God): Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.

Revelation 19:7 (Parallel theme): Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

Psalms 97:12 (Righteousness): Rejoice in the LORD, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.

Psalms 43:4 (References God): 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.

Psalms 58:10 (Righteousness): The righteous shall rejoice when he seeth the vengeance: he shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked.

Psalms 21:1 (Parallel theme): The king shall joy in thy strength, O LORD; and in thy salvation how greatly shall he rejoice!

Deuteronomy 12:12 (References God): And ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God, ye, and your sons, and your daughters, and your menservants, and your maidservants, and the Levite that is within your gates; forasmuch as he hath no part nor inheritance with you.

1 Peter 1:8 (Parallel theme): Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

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