

Psalm 69:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The seed also of his servants shall inherit it: and they that love his name shall dwell therein.

Analysis

The humble shall see this, and be glad: and your heart shall live that seek God. This verse promises that God's deliverance of the righteous sufferer will encourage the humble and revive those who seek Him. 'The humble' (anavim, עֲנוּמִים) refers to the afflicted, lowly, and oppressed—those who depend on God because they have no earthly power. When they witness God vindicating the righteous sufferer, they 'be glad' (yismachu, יִשְׁמַחוּ, rejoice), finding hope for their own situations.

The promise 'your heart shall live' means revival, renewed courage, and spiritual vitality. Those who 'seek God' (dorshei Elohim, דָרְשִׁי אֱלֹהִים) are active pursuers of God, not passive religious observers. The verse creates a chain reaction: God delivers the righteous sufferer → the humble observe this → their hearts are revived → they continue seeking God. One person's deliverance becomes corporate encouragement, strengthening the entire community of faith.

This verse finds ultimate fulfillment in Christ's resurrection. The 'humble' who witnessed Christ's vindication—resurrection after crucifixion—had their hearts revived. The discouraged disciples (Luke 24:21, 'we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel') became bold proclaimers after seeing the risen Lord. Throughout church history, the testimony of Christ's resurrection has revived seekers' hearts, proving that God vindicates those who trust Him. Every believer's story of God's faithfulness strengthens others' faith—our individual testimonies serve corporate edification (2 Corinthians 1:3-6).

Historical Context

The concept of the 'humble' or 'meek' (anav) is central to biblical theology. These aren't weak or spineless people but those who deliberately choose dependence on God over self-assertion. Moses was 'very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth' (Numbers 12:3), yet he confronted Pharaoh. Jesus declared, 'Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth' (Matthew 5:5), echoing Psalm 37:11.

In Israel's socioeconomic structure, the anawim (humble ones) were often the poor, widows, orphans, and marginalized—those without social power who depended on God and the community's covenant faithfulness. The prophets championed their cause (Isaiah 61:1, Amos 2:7), and God promised to be their defender (Psalm 68:5). Psalm 69's promise that the humble would see and rejoice assured the powerless that God cared about them and would demonstrate His power on their behalf.

The early church consisted largely of these 'humble' ones—slaves, women, the poor, and marginalized (1 Corinthians 1:26-29, 'not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called'). The gospel's message that God vindicated the crucified Christ gave these believers hope that God would vindicate them. Persecution couldn't shake faith rooted in resurrection—if God raised Jesus, He would raise His people. The testimony of Christ's vindication 'made their hearts live,' sustaining faith through Roman persecution and continuing to revive seekers' hearts today.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does witnessing God's faithfulness to others strengthen your own faith and revive your heart?
2. In what ways are you called to 'humility' (dependence on God) rather than self-sufficiency?
3. How can your testimony of God's deliverance encourage the 'humble' who are struggling?
4. What does it mean for your heart to 'live' through seeking God versus merely existing spiritually?
5. How does Christ's resurrection serve as the ultimate example of God vindicating the righteous sufferer?

Interlinear Text

שָׁמֹן	וְאֶחָד	בְּנֵי	וְנָתַן	יְהִי	בְּעֵד	שָׁמֹן
The seed	also of his servants	shall inherit	it and they that love	his name		
H2233	H5650	H5157	H157			H8034
בָּהּ:	וְשָׁכַנְתָּ					
shall dwell	H0					
	H7931					

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 102:28 (Parallel theme): The children of thy servants shall continue, and their seed shall be established before thee.

Acts 2:39 (Parallel theme): For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

Psalms 37:29 (Parallel theme): The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever.