

Psalm 89:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O LORD, in the light of thy countenance.

Analysis

Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound—(אָשָׁרִים בָּעֵם יְדֵי תְּרוֹעָה) Ashrei (blessed, happy) describes the people who yada (know, experience) the teruah (trumpet blast, shout of joy, battle cry). This refers to the ram's horn (shofar) blown at festivals and coronations. **They shall walk, O LORD, in the light of thy countenance**—(יְהִי בְּאֹורַ-פָּנֶיךָ יְהִלְכָן) Halak (walk, live) in the or (light) of God's panim (face, presence) means living under His favor and guidance.

The 'joyful sound' connects to Numbers 10:10 where trumpets announced God's presence and favor. Those who 'know' this sound—who recognize God's voice and respond—live in the radiance of His face, echoing the Aaronic blessing (Numbers 6:24-26). Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12), and believers 'walk in the light as He is in the light' (1 John 1:7). Paul instructs us to 'walk as children of light' (Ephesians 5:8).

Historical Context

The shofar announced Sabbaths, new moons, Jubilee years, and coronations. Its blast signaled God's reign and deliverance. The 'blessed people' who knew this sound were those in covenant relationship with God, attuned to His presence and summons. The early church understood this as those who hear and respond to the gospel trumpet (1 Corinthians 15:52).

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does it mean practically to 'know the joyful sound' of God's voice in Scripture and prayer?
2. How does 'walking in the light of His countenance' contrast with living in spiritual darkness or hiding from God?
3. In what ways can you become more attuned to recognizing God's presence and responding to His summons?

Interlinear Text

בָּרוּךְ אֲשֶׁר יְعַמֵּד יְדֵיכֶם תְּרוֹעַת הַזָּהָר בְּאֹרֶךְ הַיּוֹם
Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound of the LORD in the light

H835

H5971

H3045

H8643

H3068

H216

וְלֹךְ יְלִכְמָד יְמִלְכָה
of thy countenance they shall walk

H6440

H1980

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 44:3 (Light): For they got not the land in possession by their own sword, neither did their own arm save them: but thy right hand, and thine arm, and the light of thy countenance, because thou hadst a favour unto them.

Psalms 100:1 (References Lord): Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.

Numbers 10:10 (References Lord): Also in the day of your gladness, and in your solemn days, and in the beginnings of your months, ye shall blow with the

trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; that they may be to you for a memorial before your God: I am the LORD your God.

Isaiah 2:5 (Light): O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the LORD.

Acts 2:28 (Parallel theme): Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.

Psalms 4:6 (Light): There be many that say, Who will shew us any good? LORD, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us.

Job 29:3 (Light): When his candle shined upon my head, and when by his light I walked through darkness;

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.

Leviticus 25:9 (Parallel theme): Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubile to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land.

Numbers 6:26 (References Lord): The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.