

Psalms 89:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted.

Analysis

In thy name shall they rejoice all the day (בְּשִׁמְךָ יְגִלּוּן כָּל-הַיּוֹם)—Gil (to rejoice, exult, be glad) in God's shem (name, character, reputation) defines the believer's constant posture. **And in thy righteousness shall they be exalted** (וּבִצְדִקְתְּךָ יִרְוּמוּ)—Tzedakah (righteousness, justice, covenant faithfulness) becomes the basis for their rum (exaltation, being lifted up).

Rejoicing 'all the day' (kol hayom) doesn't mean emotional euphoria but settled joy grounded in God's character. This anticipates Paul's 'Rejoice in the Lord always' (Philippians 4:4). Exaltation through God's righteousness inverts worldly values—we're not elevated by our achievements but by His imputed righteousness (Romans 3:22, 2 Corinthians 5:21). Christ's righteousness becomes ours through faith, and we're raised with Him (Ephesians 2:6).

Historical Context

In ancient Israel, a king's righteousness determined national blessing or judgment. The psalm's original context points to David's righteous reign foreshadowing the Messiah. When God promised to exalt David's throne, He committed to vindicating His own righteousness through the King who would perfectly embody it—Jesus Christ.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How can you cultivate rejoicing in God's name 'all the day' amid mundane routines and frustrations?
2. What's the difference between being exalted in your own righteousness versus God's righteousness?
3. How does understanding righteousness as gift (not achievement) change your emotional relationship with God?

Interlinear Text

בְּ שִׁמְךָ	יִגִּיל וְ	כָּל	הַיּוֹם	וּבְצִדְקָתְךָ
In thy name	shall they rejoice	H3605	all the day	and in thy righteousness
H8034	H1523		H3117	H6666

יִרְוּמוּ:
shall they be exalted
H7311

Additional Cross-References

Philippians 3:9 (Righteousness): And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Philippians 4:4 (Parallel theme): Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.

Isaiah 46:13 (Righteousness): I bring near my righteousness; it shall not be far off, and my salvation shall not tarry: and I will place salvation in Zion for Israel my glory.

Psalms 105:3 (Parallel theme): Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD.

Psalms 29:5 (Parallel theme): The voice of the LORD breaketh the cedars; yea, the LORD breaketh the cedars of Lebanon.

Psalms 89:12 (Parallel theme): The north and the south thou hast created them: Tabor and Hermon shall rejoice in thy name.

Psalms 33:21 (Parallel theme): For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name.

Psalms 44:8 (Parallel theme): In God we boast all the day long, and praise thy name for ever. Selah.

Psalms 29:7 (Parallel theme): The voice of the LORD divideth the flames of fire.

Romans 1:17 (Righteousness): For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.