

Psalm 97:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof.

Analysis

This enthronement psalm begins with the proclamation 'The LORD reigneth' (Yahweh malak), establishing divine sovereignty as the foundation for all that follows. The call for the earth to rejoice (samach) and the 'multitude of isles' (coastlands—representing distant nations) to be glad demonstrates that God's reign is universal, not merely local. This cosmic perspective anticipates the Great Commission and the gospel's spread to all nations. True joy originates from recognizing God's rightful rule over all creation.

Historical Context

Written when Israel was a small nation among great empires, this psalm boldly declares Yahweh's supremacy over all earthly powers, prefiguring the universal kingdom of Christ.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does acknowledging God's reign over all nations affect your prayers for current world events?
2. What would it look like for you to live with consistent joy grounded in God's sovereignty rather than circumstances?

Interlinear Text

בְּגִימָן:	אֵין	שְׁמַחַת	וְ	בָּא	רָצֶן	פָּתַח	לְ	מֵת	לְגַם	יְהִי	הָ	לְגַם
The LORD	reigneth	rejoice		let the earth		be glad		of isles		let the multitude		
H3068	H4427	H1523		H776		H8055		H339		H7227		

Additional Cross-References

Colossians 1:13 (Kingdom): Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Psalms 99:1 (Kingdom): The LORD reigneth; let the people tremble: he sitteth between the cherubims; let the earth be moved.

Psalms 93:1 (Kingdom): The LORD reigneth, he is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed with strength, wherewith he hath girded himself: the world also is established, that it cannot be moved.

Revelation 11:17 (Kingdom): Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

Isaiah 49:13 (References Lord): Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the LORD hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted.

Mark 11:10 (Kingdom): Blessed be the kingdom of our father David, that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest.

Genesis 10:5 (Parallel theme): By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands; every one after his tongue, after their families, in their nations.

Zephaniah 2:11 (References Lord): The LORD will be terrible unto them: for he will famish all the gods of the earth; and men shall worship him, every one from his place, even all the isles of the heathen.

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