

# Psalms 97:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart.

## Analysis

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Light being 'sown' (zara) for the righteous uses agricultural imagery suggesting both God's initiative and future harvest. Light symbolizes joy, clarity, truth, and blessing—all aspects of salvation. Gladness for the 'upright in heart' (yashar lev) emphasizes internal righteousness, not mere external conformity. The sowing metaphor indicates that blessing may not be immediate but is certain to come to fruition. This verse promises that righteousness will ultimately be rewarded, encouraging perseverance in godliness despite present hardship.

## Historical Context

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Agricultural societies understood sowing as requiring patience—there's delay between planting and harvest, but the harvest is certain if seed is sown.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. Where in your life are you waiting for 'sown light' to sprout and produce a harvest of joy?

2. How does the promise of future gladness help you maintain uprightness of heart when righteousness seems costly?

## Interlinear Text

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אור	זָרַעַ	לְצַדִּיק	וְלִישָׁרִי	לֵב	שִׂמְחָה:
Light	is sown	for the righteous	for the upright	in heart	and gladness
H216	H2232	H6662	H3477	H3820	H8057

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 12:46** (Light): I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

**Proverbs 4:18** (Righteousness): But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

**Psalms 112:4** (Righteousness): Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.

**Job 22:28** (Light): Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways.

**Revelation 21:23** (Light): And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

**Psalms 18:28** (Light): For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.

**Esther 8:16** (Light): The Jews had light, and gladness, and joy, and honour.

**Galatians 6:8** (Parallel theme): For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

**Revelation 22:5** (Light): And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

**Micah 7:9** (Righteousness): I will bear the indignation of the LORD, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: he will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold his righteousness.

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