

Personal Joy of the Psalmist

By Mark Mayberry

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INTRODUCTION

The Hebrew word *samach* [נחַם] means “rejoice, be glad” [Thomas 8055]. Holladay defines it as “(1) rejoice; (2) be joyful, glad.” This word occurs 154x in 147 verses.

Joy may be found in physical activities. In the book of Ecclesiastes, the preacher says that we should be happy in our activities (Eccl. 3:22), including times of labor and toil (Eccl. 5:19; 8:15).

We should be happy in our lifetime (Eccl. 3:12), especially during childhood and youth (Eccl. 11:9), and if we are granted long life, happiness should extend down through the years (Eccl. 11:8).

We can derive happiness from food, drink and material possessions, although the benefits of the latter may be overstated (Eccl. 10:19).

Turning our attention to the personal joy of the Psalmist, we can also find happiness in the person of God, in His providential care, and in spiritual activities.

REGARDING ENEMIES

Seeking vindication, the Psalmist repeatedly asked God, “Let not my enemies rejoice over me” (Psa. 30:1; 35:15, 19, 24; 38:16).

REGARDING GOD’S JUSTICE

The Psalmist rejoiced over God’s justice (Psa. 109:28).

REGARDING GOD’S LOVINGKINDNESS

The Psalmist rejoiced over God’s lovingkindness (Psa. 31:7).

REGARDING GOD’S PEOPLE

The Psalmist rejoiced over God’s people, Israel (Psa. 106:5).

REGARDING GOD'S PROMISES

The Psalmist rejoiced over God's promises (Psa. 16:9).

REGARDING GOD'S WORKS

The Psalmist rejoiced in God's works (Psa. 92:4).

REGARDING GOD HIMSELF

The Psalmist rejoiced in God Himself (Psa. 9:2; 104:34).

REGARDING TODAY

The Psalmist rejoiced in the blessing of today (Psa. 118:24).

REGARDING WORSHIP

The Psalmist rejoiced in opportunities for worship (Psa. 122:1).

CONCLUSION

Let us find joy in the simple pleasures of life, and also in the spiritual blessings that come from sharing a relationship with God the Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ.