

JOY AND PEACE—THE TREES OF THE FIELD SHALL CLAP THEIR HANDS: Isaiah 55:12

Isaiah 55:12

“For you shall go out in joy
plural
Go Forth
Go Forward
prep. gladness
pleasure
mirth

and be led forth in peace;
conj. carried prep. Favor
Tranquility Safety
Welfare prosperity

the mountains and the hills before you
def. High places conj. def. lower than mountains prep.

shall break forth into singing,
Burst forth ringing cry
Ps. 98:4 Break out Joyful sound proclamation Triumph
Isa. 14:7 Suddenly make a loud noise shout of joy
Isa. 44:23

and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.”
def. land Clap for joy
country Psa. 98:8

CONTEXT: God promises His people will be delivered from their captivity in Babylon. Will it be an unhappy return, walking with their heads down in shame? Will it be a warring return, having to fight their way through the mountains back to Mount Zion? The LORD says no! Look at verse 12. This is a physical promise for the people of Israel around 700 B.C., and it finds its ultimate fulfillment in Christ and His saints.

Hebrews 13:14 “For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.”

DOCTRINE. Set free from captivity, God's people march toward the Holy City in both joy and peace.

I. SET FREE FROM CAPTIVITY, GOD'S PEOPLE MARCH TOWARD THE HOLY CITY IN JOY (Isaiah 55:12a).

Isaiah 55:12a "For you shall go out in joy."

- Joy is one of the chief blessings God gives His redeemed people! The Christian life is one of hardship and warfare, but it is also a life filled with joy!

This joy flows from the fact that, in Christ, you are justified and adopted; it flows also from the fact that you are being sanctified; and it flows from the sure hope that you will be glorified!

- **Think with me of the joy that we are promised in Christ!**

Let me make 9 points from the Scriptures concerning the joy of the Christian:

I) The Kingdom of God is a kingdom of joy!

- **Romans 14:17** "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and *peace* and *joy* in the Holy Spirit."

II) God the Father fills believers with joy!

- **Romans 15:13** "May the God of hope fill you with all *joy* and *peace* in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

III) God the Holy Spirit produces the fruit of joy in Christ's people!

- **Galatians 5:22** "The fruit of the Spirit is. . . *joy*."

IV) God the Son—the Lord Jesus Christ—is the priceless treasure that makes men rejoice to have Him!

- **Matthew 13:44** "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his *joy* he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."
- **1 Peter 1:8** "Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with *joy* that is inexpressible and filled with glory"

V) The joy that Christ gives is a secure joy!

- **John 16:22** "So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your *joy* from you."
 - **WILLIAM JENKYN**

"Salvation is a happy security and a secure happiness."

- **In Christ, no temptation or sin or affliction can pick the lock and steal Jesus' joy from you.**

VI) The joy that Christ gives in an invincible joy!

- **Luke 6:22-23** "22 Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! 23 Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets."

- **RICHARD SIBBES**

"Those that look to be happy must first look to be holy."

*warning

If you know nothing of persecution, because you are passive or inactive, you may know nothing of Christ. Worse still, Christ may know nothing of you. "All who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."

VII) The joy that Christ gives makes believers joyful to give!

- **2 Corinthians 8:2** "[The Macedonian church] in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part."

- **MATTHEW HENRY**

"Holy joy is the oil to the wheels of our obedience."

*examination

VIII) Christians have joy now, but one day Joy itself will have us!

- **Matthew 25:21** "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'"

- **THOMAS WATSON**

"Here joy begins to enter into us; there we enter into joy."

IX) God Himself will preserve His saints to the end so that they will stand before Him with great joy!

- **Jude 24** "Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy..."

*comfort

- **Q. Can you imagine how happy you will be to stand before the Lord clothed in the righteous robes of Jesus Christ?**

X) Looking in faith at our blessed King Jesus, we must not be outdone by those who looked at King Solomon—we must split the

earth with our rejoicing!

- **1 Kings 1:39-40** "39 There Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the tent and anointed Solomon. Then they blew the trumpet, and all the people said, 'Long live King Solomon!' 40 And all the people went up after him, playing on pipes, and rejoicing with great joy, so that the earth was split by their noise."
- **JOHN HUME**
"Joy cannot be suppressed in the heart, but it must be expressed with the tongue."

*exhortation

II. SET FREE FROM CAPTIVITY, GOD'S PEOPLE ARE LED TOWARD THE HOLY CITY IN PEACE (Isaiah 55:12b).

Isaiah 55:12b "and be led forth in peace;"

- Peace is also one of the chief blessings God gives His redeemed people! The Christian is promised peace!
 - Christians are given **I**) peace with God, **II**) peace of conscience (sins forgiven and providence engaged for us by our King), and **III**) peace with other believers.

This peace flows from the fact that, in Christ, you are justified and adopted; it flows also from the fact that you are being sanctified; and it flows from the sure hope that you will be glorified!

- **THOMAS WATSON**
"[Concerning peace] The Father decrees it, the Son purchases it, the Holy Ghost applies it."
- **Think with me on the peace the Father decreed, the Son purchased, and the Holy Spirit applies to us in Christ!**

Let me make 9 points from the Scriptures concerning the peace of the Christian:

I) The Kingdom of God is a kingdom of peace!

- **Romans 14:17** "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."

II) God the Father fills believers with peace!

- **Romans 15:13** "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

III) God the Holy Spirit produces the fruit of peace in Christ's people!

- **Galatians 5:22** "The fruit of the Spirit is. . . *peace*."

Examination

Q. Do you have peace of conscience?

If not, it is either do to a neglect of thinking upon the blessings of justification, adoption, sanctification, and glorification or it is due to making peace with sin, and thereby wounding your conscience.

- **ROBERT LEIGHTON**

"Inward peace is too precious a liquor to be poured into a filthy vessel."

- **THOMAS WATSON**

"You may as well suck health out of poison, as peace out of sin."

Therefore, when you lack peace of conscience, go straight to these things and examine why you have lost that peace.

IV) God the Son—the Lord Jesus Christ—is the Prince that gives peace to His people!

- **Isaiah 9:6** "[Christ is the] Prince of Peace."

V) The Lord Jesus is the Purchaser of peace—who paid for our peace with His own blood!

- **Isaiah 53:5** "But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed."

- **THOMAS WATSON**

"Has Christ waded through a sea of blood and wrath, to purchase my peace? . . . How should my heart ascend in a fiery chariot of love! How willing should I be to do and suffer for Christ!"

*comfort and delight

VI) In Christ, you can have peace increased by meditating on His merciful providence!

- **Psalms 4:8** "In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety."
- **John 16:33** "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

- **THOMAS WATSON**

"When the head aches, the heart may be well; and when worldly troubles assault a Christian, his mind may be in peace and quiet."

VII) In Christ, you can have peace increased by fixing your mind and

trust on the Lord!

- **Isaiah 26:3** "You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you."

*exhortation

VIII) The peace that Christ gives is an abundant peace!

- **Isaiah 66:12** "For thus says the Lord: 'Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you shall nurse, you shall be carried upon her hip, and bounced upon her knees.'"

IX) The peace that Christ gives is covenantal peace!

- **Isaiah 54:10** "For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed," says the Lord, who has compassion on you."

III. CREATION ITSELF WILL BURST FORTH IN PRAISE AT THE DELIVERANCE OF GOD'S PEOPLE (Isaiah 55:12c).

Isaiah 55:12c "the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."

- **TURN W ME to Romans 8:18-25** "**18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. **19** For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. **20** For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope **21** that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. **22** For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. **23** And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. **24** For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? **25** But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."

If even the mountains, hills, and trees will sing and clap for joy when Christ glorifies His saints, imagine how happy you will be! (Isaiah 55:12; Romans 8:21-23)