

## What Do We Have To Rejoice For?

Rejoice because we are Holy, we are Saints. We are concentrated, we are sanctified, we are set apart and peculiar (special). We are Special to God. We find our relationship with God in Deut. Which gives us cause to greatly rejoice. We are the redeemed of the Lord.

The numbers with the words show you what the original meaning of the word is in the original language according to Strong's Concordance.

Deuteronomy 7:6 For you are a holy <06918> people <05971> unto the LORD <03068> your God <0430>: the LORD <03068> your God <0430> hath chosen <0977> (8804) you to be a special <05459> people <05971> unto himself, above all people <05971> that are upon the face <06440> of the earth <0127>.

Deuteronomy 14:2 For you art an holy <06918> people <05971> unto the LORD <03068> your God <0430>, and the LORD <03068> hath chosen <0977> (8804) you to be a peculiar <05459> people <05971> unto himself, above all the nations <05971> that are upon <06440> the earth <0127>.

Deuteronomy 26:19 And to make <05414> (8800) you high <05945> above all nations <01471> which he has made <06213> (8804), in praise <08416>, and in name <08034>, and in honour <08597>; and that you may be a holy <06918> people <05971> unto the LORD <03068> your God <0430>, as he hath spoken <01696> (8765).

Deuteronomy 28:9 The LORD <03068> shall establish <06965> (8686) you a holy <06918> people <05971> unto himself, as he hath sworn <07650> (8738) unto you, IF you keep <08104> (8799) the commandments <04687> of the LORD <03068> your God <0430>, and walk <01980> (8804) in his ways <01870>.

Isaiah 62:12 And they shall call <07121> (8804) you, The holy <06944> people <05971>, The redeemed <01350> (8803) of the LORD <03068>: (These are the Strong's Conc. Numbers to find the orig. language for each word)

These references were originally given to ancient Israel but they didn't take it seriously so it was passed on to spiritual Israel. It still applies to physical Israel but will not be fulfilled until after the fulfillment of the Gentiles in a future age.

In the beginning Israel was told not only to observe but to rejoice during the observance and celebration of God's holy days.

Leviticus 23:36 Seven days you shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and you shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: it is a solemn assembly; and you shall do no servile work therein. {solemn...: Heb. day of restraint from physical work}

Numbers 10:10 Also in the day of your gladness, and in your solemn days, and in the beginnings of your months, you shall blow with the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; that they may be to you for a memorial before your God: I am the LORD your God.

Numbers 29:35 On the eighth day you shall have a solemn assembly: you shall do no servile work therein:

The word “solemn” doesn’t mean to be seriously grim, or controlled. It means to celebrate, be joyous, and happy.

Deuteronomy 16:8 Six days you shalt eat unleavened bread: and on the seventh day shall be a solemn assembly to the LORD your God: you shall do no work therein. {solemn...: day of rejoicing}

Deuteronomy 16:15 Seven days shalt you keep a solemn feast unto the LORD your God in the place which the LORD shall choose: because the LORD your God shall bless you in all your increase, and in all the works of your hands, therefore you shall surely rejoice.

Even during the keeping of the weekly Sabbath we can rejoice in that it’s a time of studying, teaching, eating, fellowshiping, resting, and doing good as Christ set us an example.

Luke 13:14 And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the Sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day.

Luke 13:15 The Lord then answered him, and said, Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering?

Luke 13:16 And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?

Luke 14:1 And it came to pass, as he went into the house of one of the chief Pharisees to eat bread on the Sabbath day, that they watched him.

The religious leaders of that day was taking all the joy out of the Sabbath by their man made traditions.

In spite of all the problems and sorrows David experienced he found joy in serving his God. He says to God:

Psalms 13:5 I have trusted in your mercy; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

Psalms 14:7 Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion! when the LORD brings back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad.

Psalms 118:24 This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalms 119:162 I rejoice at your word, as one that finds great wealth (spoil).

Even though David did not have the wealth of the New Testament as we have, he rejoiced in what he did have and wrote down his own feelings and thoughts about his relationship with God that later was added to the Old Test.

Solomon says:

Proverbs 28:12 When righteous men do rejoice, there is great glory:

Isaiah says:

Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels. {decketh: Heb. decketh as a priest}

God says to the land of Israel:

Isaiah 62:5 For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall your sons marry you: and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

Isaiah 65:13 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, my servants shall eat, but you shall be hungry: behold, my servants shall drink, but you shall be thirsty: behold, my servants shall rejoice, but you shall be ashamed:

Isaiah 65:18 But be you glad and rejoice forever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.

Isaiah 65:19 And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.

Isaiah 66:10 Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all you that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all you that mourn for her:

Isaiah 66:14 And when you see this, your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall flourish like an herb: and the hand of the LORD shall be known toward his servants, and his indignation toward his enemies.

Jeremiah writes:

Jeremiah 31:13 Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together: for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow.

God also rejoices:

Jeremiah 32:41 Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul.

James says:

1:9 Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted: {rejoice: or, glory}

Peter says:

1 Peter 1:6 Wherein you greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, you are in heaviness through manifold trials (temptations):

1 Peter 1:8 Whom having not seen, you love; in whom, though now you see him not, yet believing, you rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

1 Peter 4:13 But rejoice, inasmuch as you are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, you may be glad also with exceeding joy.

David set us a good example as to how to rejoice.

Ps 71:14 ¶ But I will hope continually, and will yet praise you more and more.

15 My mouth shall shew forth your righteousness and your salvation all the day; for I know not the numbers thereof.

16 I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD: I will make mention of your righteousness, even of thine only.

17 O God, you hast taught me from my youth: and ever since I have declared your wondrous works.

18 Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed your strength unto this generation, and your power to everyone that is to come. {when...: Heb. unto old age and gray hairs} {your strength: Heb. thine arm}

19 Thy righteousness also, O God, is very high, who hast done great things: O God, who is like unto you!

20 You, who has showed me great and sore troubles, shall resurrect (quicken) me, and shall bring me up again from the depths of the earth.

One of the greatest things that we have to rejoice over is that we have been promised eternal life after this decaying flesh has been shed.

1 Pet. 1: 3 ¶ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, {abundant: Gr. much}

4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for us, {for you: or, for us}

5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

6 ¶ Wherein you greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, you are in heaviness through manifold tests (temptations):

7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

8 Whom having not seen, you love; in whom, though now you see him not, yet believing, you rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

Many of us have life so much easier than the believers did then, it is difficult for us to appreciate the promises of grander glory than we already have. In a sense we are under a spiritual curse if we allow our ease of life to deprive us of love for Christ and weakening our joy. Our physical pursuits can become more important to us than our future glory with him. Even the ancient prophets were extremely excited about and prophesied of the grace that we are so blessed to have extended as a gift, and in many cases take for granted. Even the angels desire to know more about it.

10 ¶ Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

12 Unto whom it was revealed not only to them, but unto us through them these things, which

are now reported by them that have preached the gospel unto us by the Holy Spirit sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

Jesus prays for us:

John 10:28 And I give unto you (them) eternal life; and you (they) shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck you (them) out of my hand.

John 12:25 He that loveth his carnal life shall lose it; and he that puts less value on his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

John 17:2 As you hast given me power over all flesh, that I should give eternal life to as many as you hast given me.

John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you hast sent.

Acts 13:48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

Here we have the word “ordained” which simply means to be chosen, established, set up, appointed. In this case “to eternal life”. We have all been “ordained” IF we keep God’s laws and rely on Jesus Christ to be our high priest. At this point even the Gentiles had nothing but the Old Test. and the teachings of the apostles. Based on that alone, they became believers. Yet we have trouble rejoicing at the gift of eternal life.

Romans 2:7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:

Romans 5:21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Corinthians 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

2 Corinthians 4:18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2 Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the firmaments (heavens).

Ephesians 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which God purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto you art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

1 Timothy 6:19 Laying up in store for ourselves a good foundation against the time to come, that we may lay hold on eternal life.

Titus 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began; {In: or, For}

Titus 3:7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Hebrews 5:9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

Hebrews 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

How grace became the gift to get excited about and be joyous about.

Hebrews 9:15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

1 Peter 5:10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that you have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

1 John 1:2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

1 John 2:25 And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.

1 John 5:11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may believe on the name of the Son of God.

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Jude 1:21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Knowing that Jesus Christ did all this for us so that we might accept the gift of eternal life, more precious than any amount of money or luxury, the least we can do to show our appreciation is to rejoice, to get excited about it, as David did, before the New Test. or Christ, or the apostles were even on the scene. How would we feel if we found out that it was all just a dream, that grace had been recalled, or that we were denied the gift? Then after a few months we discover we had the opportunity to buy the gift back, would we value it more than we do now? Would we rejoice at the prospect? How much would it be worth to us?

Here is Paul's answer; would it be ours?

1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

2 Timothy 2:10 Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

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