

VERSES ON JOY

Leviticus 23:40 40 And you shall take on the first day [of the Feast of Booths] the fruit of splendid trees, branches of palm trees, boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook, and you shall *rejoice* before Yahweh your God seven days.

Numbers 10:10 10 On the day of your *gladness* (שמחה) also, and at your appointed feasts and at the beginnings of your months, you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings. They shall be a reminder of you before your God: I am Yahweh your God.

Deuteronomy 12:17-19 17 You may not eat within your towns the tithe of your grain or of your wine or of your oil, or the firstborn of your herd or of your flock, or any of your vow offerings that you vow, or your freewill offerings or the contribution that you present, 18 but you shall eat them before Yahweh your God in the place that Yahweh your God will choose, you, your son, and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant, and the Levite who is within your towns. And you shall *rejoice* before Yahweh your God in all that you undertake.

Deuteronomy 16:11 11 And you shall [on the Feast of Weeks] *rejoice* before Yahweh your God, you, your son, and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant, the Levite who is within your towns, the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow who are among you, at the place that Yahweh your God will choose, to make his name dwell there.

Deuteronomy 16:15 15 For seven days you shall keep the feast [of Booths] to Yahweh your God at the place that Yahweh will choose, because Yahweh your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you will be altogether *joyful*.

Deuteronomy 26:11 11 And you shall *rejoice* in all the good that Yahweh your God has given to you and to your house, you, the Levite, and the sojourner who is among you.

Deuteronomy 28:47-48 47 Because you did not serve Yahweh your God with *joyfulness* and *gladness* of heart, because of the abundance of all things, 48 therefore you shall serve your enemies whom Yahweh will send against you, in hunger and thirst, in nakedness, and lacking everything. And he will put a yoke of iron on your neck until he has destroyed you.

2 Samuel 6:12-15 12 So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with *rejoicing*. 13 And when those who bore the ark of Yahweh had gone six steps, he sacrificed an ox and a fattened animal. 14 And David danced before Yahweh with all his might. And David was wearing a linen ephod. 15 So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of Yahweh with shouting and with the sound of the horn.¹

¹ There are times when we should get caught up in exuberant joy.

1 Chronicles 16:10 10 Glory in his holy name. Let the hearts of those who seek Yahweh rejoice!²

1 Chronicles 16:27 27 Splendour and majesty are before [Yahweh]. Strength and joy (הֵדָוָה) are in his place.

1 Chronicles 16:31-33 31 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, Yahweh reigns! 32 Let the sea roar, and all that fills it. Let the field exult, and everything in it! 33 Then shall the trees of the forest sing for joy before Yahweh, for he comes to judge the earth.

2 Chronicles 7:10 10 On the twenty-third day of the seventh month [Solomon] sent the people away to their homes, joyful and glad of heart for the prosperity that Yahweh had granted to David and to Solomon and to Israel his people.

2 Chronicles 20:27 27 Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat at their head, returning to Jerusalem with joy, for Yahweh had made them rejoice over their enemies.

2 Chronicles 29:36 36 And Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced because God had provided for the people, for the thing came about suddenly.

Ezra 6:16 16 And the people of Israel, the priests and the Levites, and the rest of the returned exiles, celebrated the dedication of this house of God with joy (הֵדָוָה).

Nehemiah 8:10 10 Then [Nehemiah] said to [the people], Go your way. Eat the fat, drink sweet wine, and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of Yahweh is your mountain stronghold/place of refuge (בְּיִשְׁרָאֵל הָיָא מְעֻזָּבָה).

Nehemiah 12:43 43 [The people] offered great sacrifices that day and rejoiced (שָׂמְחָה), for God had made them rejoice (שָׂמְחָה) with great joy (שִׂמְחָה גְּדוּלָה). The women and children also rejoiced (שָׂמְחָה). And the joy (שִׂמְחָה) of Jerusalem was heard far away.

Esther 8:16-17 16 The Jews had light, gladness/joy (שִׂמְחָה), joy/jubilation (שִׂשׂוֹן), and honour. 17 And in every province and in every city, wherever the king's command and his edict reached, there was gladness/joy (שִׂמְחָה) and joy/jubilation (שִׂשׂוֹן) among the Jews, a feast and a holiday.

Psalms 4:7 7 You have put more joy (שִׂמְחָה) in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.

Psalms 16:7-11 7 I bless Yahweh who gives me counsel. In the night also my heart instructs me. 8 I have set Yahweh always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I shall not be

² To rejoice is a choice.

shaken. 9 Therefore my heart is *glad*, and my whole being *rejoices*. My flesh also dwells secure. 10 For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. 11 You make known to me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of *joy*. At your right hand are *pleasures* forevermore.

Psalm 27:6 6 And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of *joy*. I will sing and make melody to Yahweh.

Psalm 30:4-5 4 Sing praises to Yahweh, you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name. 5 For his anger is but for a moment, but his grace is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but *joy* comes with the morning.

Psalm 30:11-12 11 You have turned for me my mourning into dancing. You have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with *gladness*, 12 that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent. Yahweh my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

Psalm 37:4 4 *Delight yourself/take pleasure* (ענג) in Yahweh, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Psalm 40:16 16 May all who seek you *rejoice* and be *glad* in you. May those who love your salvation say continually, Great is Yahweh!

Psalm 51:8-12 8 Let me hear *joy* and *gladness*. Let the bones that you have broken *rejoice*. 9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. ...12 Restore to me the *joy* of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Psalm 68:3 3 The righteous shall be *glad*. They shall *exult* before God. They shall be *jubilant* with *joy*!³

Psalm 90:14-15 14 Satisfy us in the morning with your loyal love, that we may *rejoice* (רנן) and be *glad* (שמח) all our days. 15 Make us *glad* for as many days as you have afflicted us and for as many years as we have seen evil.

Psalm 92:4 4 For you, Yahweh, have made me *glad* by your work. At the works of your hands I sing for *joy*.

Psalm 95:1-2 1 Oh come, let us sing to Yahweh. Let us make a *joyful* noise to the rock of our salvation! 2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving. Let us make a *joyful* noise to him with songs of praise!

Psalm 96:11-13 11 Let the heavens be *glad*, and let the earth *rejoice*. Let the sea roar, and all that fills it. 12 Let the field *exult*, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for *joy* 13 before Yahweh, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth.

³ The joy of the Christian is the exact opposite of the existential angst of the atheist and the resignation of the pantheist.

Psalm 97:11-12 11 Light is sown for the righteous, and *joy* for the upright in heart. 12 *Rejoice* in Yahweh, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!

Psalm 98:4-8 4 Make a *joyful* noise to Yahweh, all the earth. Break forth into *joyous* song and sing praises! 5 Sing praises to Yahweh with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody! 6 With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a *joyful* noise before the King, Yahweh! ...8 Let the rivers clap their hands. Let the hills sing for *joy* together 9 before Yahweh, for he comes to judge the earth.

Psalm 100:1-2 1 Make a *joyful* noise to Yahweh, all the earth! 2 Serve Yahweh with *gladness*! Come into his presence with singing!

Psalm 104:34 34 May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I *rejoice* in Yahweh.

Psalm 118:15 15 *Glad* songs (קִיּוֹל רְצִיָּה) of salvation are in the tents of the righteous....

Psalm 118:24 24 This is the day that Yahweh has made. Let us *rejoice* and be glad in it.

Psalm 119:111 111 I have inherited your testimonies forever, for they are the *joy* (יוֹשֵׁעַ) of my heart.

Psalm 119:162 162 I *rejoice* at your word, as one who finds great spoil.

Psalm 126 1 When Yahweh restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. 2 Then our mouth was filled with *laughter*, and our tongue with shouts of *joy*. Then they said among the nations, Yahweh has done great things for them. 3 Yahweh has done great things for us. We are *glad*. ...5 Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of *joy*! 6 He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of *joy*, bringing his sheaves with him.

Proverbs 12:20 20 Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, but those who plan peace (שְׁלוֹמִים) have *joy* (שִׂמְחָה).

Proverbs 15:13 13 A *glad* (שִׂמְחָה) heart makes a *cheerful* face, but by sorrow of heart the spirit is crushed.

Proverbs 15:15 15 All the days of the afflicted are evil, but the *cheerful* of heart has a continual feast.

Proverbs 15:30 30 The light of the eyes *rejoices* (שִׂמְחָה) the heart, and good news refreshes the bones.

Proverbs 17:22 22 A *joyful* heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

Proverbs 24:17-18 17 Do not *rejoice* when your enemy falls, and let not your heart be *glad* when he stumbles, 18 lest Yahweh see it, be displeased, and turn away his anger from him.

Proverbs 29:6 6 An evil man is ensnared in his transgression, but a righteous man sings and *rejoices*.

Ecclesiastes 5:18-20 18 Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat, drink, and find *enjoyment* in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. 19 Everyone also to whom God has given wealth, possessions, and power to *enjoy* them, and to accept his lot and *rejoice* in his toil—this is the gift of God. 20 For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with *joy* in his heart.⁴

Isaiah 9:2-4 2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. 3 You have multiplied the nation [of Israel]. You have increased its *joy*. They *rejoice* before you as with *joy* at the harvest, as they are *glad* when they divide the spoil. 4 For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Isaiah 35:1-10 1 The wilderness and the dry land shall be *glad*. The desert shall *rejoice* and blossom like the crocus. 2 It shall blossom abundantly and *rejoice* with *joy* and singing. ... 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped. 6 Then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for *joy*. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert... 10 And the ransomed of Yahweh shall return and come to Zion with singing. Everlasting *joy* shall be upon their heads. They shall obtain *gladness* and *joy*, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 51:3 3 For Yahweh comforts (נחם) Zion. He comforts (נחם) all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden (עֵדֶן), her desert like the garden of Yahweh (בְּגִן יְהוָה). *Joy* and *gladness* will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

Isaiah 51:11 11 And the ransomed (פְּדוּיָהּ) of Yahweh shall return and come to Zion with singing. Everlasting *joy* shall be upon their heads They shall obtain *gladness* and *joy*, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 55:12 12 You shall go out in *joy* (שְׂמֵחָה) and be led forth in peace (שָׁלוֹם). The mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Jeremiah 15:16 16 Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a *joy* and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, Yahweh, God of hosts.

***Habakkuk 3:17-18** 17 Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, 18 yet I will *rejoice* in Yahweh. I will take *joy* in the God of my salvation.

⁴ Likely, this is Solomon speaking from a merely human perspective. This is the best kind of joy the natural man can hope to experience.

Matthew 2:10 10 When [the wise men] saw the star, they *rejoiced* exceedingly with great *joy*.

Matthew 13:20-21 20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with *joy*, 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.⁵

Matthew 13:44 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.

***Matthew 25:21** 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.

Luke 2:10 10 And the angel said to [the shepherds], Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great *joy* that will be for all the people.

Luke 10:17-20 17 The seventy-two returned with *joy* saying, Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name! 18 And he said to them, I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. 20 Nevertheless, do not *rejoice* in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but *rejoice* that your names are written in heaven.⁶

Luke 15:3-10 3 So [Jesus] told them this parable: 4 What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, *rejoicing*. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors saying to them, *Rejoice* with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost. 7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more *joy* in heaven over one sinner who changes his mind than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no change of mind. 8 Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? 9 And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors saying, *Rejoice* with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost. 10 Just so, I tell you, there is *joy* before the angels of God over one sinner who changes his mind.

Luke 15:22-24 22 But the father said to his servants, Bring quickly the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet. 23 And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and *celebrate*. 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again. He was lost, and is found. And they began to *celebrate*.

⁵ **Lk 8:13** 13 And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with *joy*. But these have no root. They believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away.

⁶ That is, in your eternal security as God's adopted children by grace.

Luke 15:31-32 31 And [the father] said to [this older son], Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32 It was fitting to *celebrate* and be *glad*, for this your brother was dead and is alive. He was lost and is found.

Luke 24:52 52 And [the disciples] worshiped [Jesus] and returned to Jerusalem with great *joy*....

John 3:29 29 The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, *rejoices* greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this *joy* of mine is now complete.

John 4:36 36 Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may *rejoice* together.

John 15:8-11 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you produce much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my *joy* may be in you, and that your *joy* may be full.

John 16:20-24 20 Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will *rejoice*. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into *joy*. 21 When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for *joy* that a human being has been born into the world. 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. 23 In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. 24 Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask and you will receive, that your *joy* may be full.

John 17:13 13 But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may continue to have my *joy* fulfilled in themselves (ἵνα ἔχωσιν (pres.) τὴν χαρὰν τὴν ἐμὴν πεπληρωμένην (perf. pass.) ἐν ἑαυτοῖς).⁷

Acts 2:46-47 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, [the believers] received their food with *glad* and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord [Jesus] added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 5:41 41 [The apostles] left the presence of the council, *rejoicing* (χαίρω, pres.) that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonour for the name [of Jesus].

Acts 8:8 8 So there was much *joy* in that city [Samaria].

⁷ What a privilege to be able to experience Jesus' full joy in ourselves.

Acts 8:39 39 And the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way *rejoicing* (χαίρω, pres.).

Acts 13:48 48 And when the Gentiles heard [Paul's words], they began *rejoicing* (χαίρω, imperf.) and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.

Acts 13:52 52 The disciples were filled with *joy* (χαρά) and with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 14:17 17 Yet [God] did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you [Gentiles] rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and *gladness*.

Acts 15:3 3 So, being sent on their way by the church, [Paul and Barnabas] passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great *joy* to all the brothers and sisters.

Acts 15:31 31 And when [the Gentile believers] had read [the letter from Jerusalem], they *rejoiced* because of its encouragement.

Acts 16:34 34 Then [the Philippian jailer] brought [Paul and Silas] up into his house and set food before them. And he *rejoiced* along with his entire household that he had believed in God.

Romans 15:13 13 May the God of hope fill you with all *joy* (χαρά)⁸ and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

2 Corinthians 6:8-10 8 We are treated as impostors, and yet are true, 9 as unknown, and yet well known, as dying, and behold, we live, as punished, and yet not killed, 10 as sorrowful, yet always *rejoicing* (ὡς λυπούμενοι ἀεὶ δὲ χαίροντες (pres.)), as poor, yet making many rich, as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

2 Corinthians 9:7 7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a *cheerful* giver.

Galatians 5:22 22 The fruit of the Spirit is...*joy*.⁹

Philippians 2:1-2 1 So if there is any encouragement in Messiah, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my *joy* by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

⁸ It is not our job to make ourselves happy. It is our job to allow God to make us happy through his Spirit within us.

⁹ Joy is not a work but a fruit of the filling of the Holy Spirit.

Philippians 2:17-18 17 Even if I [Paul] am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am *glad* and *rejoice* with you all. 18 Likewise you [Philippians] also should be *glad* and *rejoice* with me.

Philippians 4:4 4 *Rejoice* in the Lord [Jesus] always. Again I will say, *rejoice* (Χαίρετε (pres.) ἐν κυρίῳ πάντοτε· πάλιν ἔρῶ, χαίρετε (pres.)).¹⁰

Colossians 2:5 5 For though I [Paul] am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, *rejoicing* to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Messiah.

1 Thessalonians 3:9-10 9 For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the *joy* that we feel for your sake before our God, 10 as we pray most earnestly night and day...?

1 Thessalonians 5:16 16 *Rejoice* always (Πάντοτε χαίρετε (pres.))....

Hebrews 12:1-2 1 Therefore, because we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the *joy* (χαρά) that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

James 1:2-3 2 Count it all *joy* (χαρά), my brothers and sisters, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces patient endurance (ύπομονή).

1 Peter 1:8-9 8 Though you do not now see [Jesus], you believe and *rejoice* with *joy* inexpressible and filled with glory (πιστεύοντες (pres.) δὲ ἀγαλλιᾶσθε (pres. mid.) χαρᾷ ἀνεκκλήτῳ καὶ δεδοξασμένῃ (perf. pass.)), 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

1 John 1:3-4 3 ...That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us. And indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Messiah. 4 And we are writing these things so that our *joy* may be complete.

2 John 12 12 Though I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink. Instead I hope to come to you and talk face to face, so that our *joy* may be complete.

Jude 24-25 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*, 25 to the only God, our Saviour, through Jesus Messiah our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

¹⁰ The command to rejoice is always preceded by the command to be filled with the Spirit.