

Shout for Joy

Hebrews 4:1 Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it.

Hebrews 4:2 For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard.

Let us fear. This is a verb in the subjunctive. “Let us fear” is OK for a translation as long as you understand, this is not an imperative but an exhortation. An encouragement to do something. It provides a motivation to accomplish what the writer of Hebrews is suggesting we do. There is a fear that is sinful, which causes us to freeze in status quo mental attitude sin. Then there is fear that is awe, respectful because we know the power of the one we respect.

1. This is an aorist passive subjunctive. Subjunctive is an exhortation here. Passive is something we receive. Robby Dean translates this “Let us become fearful.” Robby Dean emphasizes that “fearful” is the right word.

2. Fear here is not sin but a respect for the essence of God. Many pastors emphasize this point. The author of Hebrews is not encouraging anyone to sin. Apparently, there is not another word to distinguish between sinful fear and non-sinful fear. Context rules.

3. Let us become fearful is the first word in the sentence, giving it emphasis. This is the motivation for what follows.

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4. The bottom line is that he is saying, we who continue to believe and are characterized by the faith in our post salvation life, we who are characterized by the faith rest drill and faith rest life will certainly enter that rest in the future. As he has said and now he contrasts it with that Old Testament generation again.

Promise. Here the Greek word is epaggelia (epi + aggelia). A noun which is contrasted with euaggellia (eu + aggelia) in the next verse. The word here is promise guaranteed by God. But we have to appropriate the promise by faith.

Good news. This is in verse 2. If it had been translated as “gospel” it would be confusing to most Christians since that is a term used of believing in Jesus Christ for salvation. That is good news. But here there is good news for the believer.

I will continue in the future addressing these two verses since they are important to me. But just a short note based upon teaching from Robby Dean. The Old Testament believers were looking forward to the promise of rest in the promised land. He suggests that here in Hebrews, the writer is looking forward to the Millennial rest. The question then becomes, is this about rewards and what those rewards result in for individual believers in the Millennium? Certainly there is also a “faith-rest” based upon this same principle. More on this at a later date. Once I got started studying this passage in earnest, I began to realize there is a lot more going on than just a surface meaning.

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Zephaniah 3:14 Shout for joy, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!

There are four imperative verbs in this single verse: Shout, shout, rejoice, exult (NASB). These four verbs are synonyms, but they have different uses in separate contexts. I met some English speaking Arabs who had a phrase that came to mind: “the same but different.” These words are similar but with different perspectives. So, it is the nuanced differences we want to look at. Why not use a variation of one word? Why use different words? Why?

1. **Shout for Joy.** (7442)

This is a single word. It means to sing, often to sing joyfully. The TDOT lists several related contexts in which it is used.

Before we proceed, let’s talk about context. How is a context generated? Words connect to words. Many words have several potential different meanings. Take the English word “right.” It can refer to the right hand. It can refer to a right turn at an intersection. It can mean “correct.” It can refer to politics...and so on. In a sentence, how does one determine what the specific meaning is in that sentence? A car turned right at the intersection. “Right” connects with the words “turned” and “intersection.” The meaning is obvious. It is based on “right hand.” It is not a politically motivated turn. However, different words take on a different meaning. A young man turned toward the right in his life as he matured. This is a bit ambiguous. It could mean that a wayward boy became more correct in his ways as he grew up. It could also mean

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he became more political in his views and turned to the “right.” To provide a context individuals words connect with other words aligning a specific meaning between and among those words.

We have four words that fit in this sentence and connect, unifying the concepts of vocal worship.

Yaweh as King. This is certainly applicable in the context of Zephaniah 3:14. Israel’s king will be in their midst (verse 15, the next verse).

Some examples to illustrate the point:

Isaiah 12:6 Cry aloud and shout for joy (our word), O inhabitant of Zion, For great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Zechariah 2:10 Sing for joy (our word) and be glad, O daughter of Zion; for behold I am coming and I will dwell in your midst,” declares the Lord.

There is a common theme here. We saw last week the repetition of the word “in your midst.” When God is in our midst, we rejoice. In the Millennium, Jesus Christ will live in the midst of His people in perfect environment. There will be great outbursts of joyful emotion celebrating His presence. I am jumping the gun here, but in the very next verse this point is made:

Zephaniah 3:15 The Lord has taken away His judgments against you, He has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; You will fear disaster no more.

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In the realm of the Christian life, when the Holy Spirit fills us, in our midst, the fruit of the spirit is produced which is:

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Galatians 5:23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

What we Christians experience in the filling of the Spirit, I think, will pale compared to the ecstatic joy experienced in the Millennium because of the banishment of the devil and his cosmos diabolicus and the presence on earth of Jesus Christ, the victor, our savior, and as Herman says, our friend. Let me emphasize that. The filling of the Holy Spirit in the Millennium will be greater than it is in the Church Age. Wow!

Yahweh as king in your midst is one contextual category for this word. There are others that are not emphasized in this verse of Zephaniah: Yahweh's help and deliverance, Yahweh as creator, justice and judgment, cult/religious, other/miscellaneous and individual rejoicing¹.

We might translate this single word as **Sing joyfully** (as a result of Jesus Christ being in your midst). I get the impression that the emphasis is on the sound of joyful singing as an expression of emotion and not so much on the content of words.

This joy is a joy expressed at and during the 2nd Advent of Jesus Christ.

¹ TDOT

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2. Shout in Triumph. (7321)

This second word is also translated as “shout” in the NASB. While this is OK it leads to thinking that this word and the previous word are the same. They are not. However, the NASB differentiated these two words by adding nouns to modify the verb. The first is “shout/sing for joy” indicating the joyous emotion. The second word here is “shout in triumph.” Indeed this word is often used in battle scenes either as a sign to attack or as a sign of victory.

**Psalm 47:1 O clap your hands, all peoples;
Shout to God with the voice of joy.**

**Psalm 47:2 For the Lord Most High is to be
feared, A great King over all the earth.**

**Psalm 47:3 He subdues peoples under us And
nations under our feet.**

**Psalm 47:4 He chooses our inheritance for us,
The glory of Jacob whom He loves. Selah.**

This joyful expression is the result of Jesus Christ’s victory in the Angelic Conflict at the end of the Tribulation. This is the 2nd Advent that the Jews thought Jesus was bringing in at His 1st Advent.

**John 6:15 So Jesus, perceiving that they were
intending to come and take Him by force to
make Him king, withdrew again to the
mountain by Himself alone.**

They did not then, nor do they now understand that the cross comes before the crow.

3. Rejoice (5937)

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The TDOT repeatedly uses the term “articulated ‘expressions of joy.’²” Articulated according to Websters on-line means to give clear and effective utterance³. So this expression of joy emphasizes more the content of the utterance than the sound of the utterance as the first verb does.

There are passages that emphasize the so called “cultic” context.

Rejoice as God has blessed you, at the Tabernacle/Temple:

Deuteronomy 12:5 But you shall seek the Lord at the place which the Lord your God will choose from all your tribes, to establish His name there for His dwelling, and there you shall come.

Deuteronomy 12:6 There you shall bring your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the contribution of your hand, your votive offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herd and of your flock.

Deuteronomy 12:7 There also you and your households shall eat before the Lord your God, and rejoice in all your undertakings in which the Lord your God has blessed you.

² TDOT Volume XIV page 146.

³ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/articulate>

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Rejoice at the feast of weeks:

Deuteronomy 16:9 “You shall count seven weeks for yourself; you shall begin to count seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the standing grain.

Deuteronomy 16:10 Then you shall celebrate the Feast of Weeks to the Lord your God with a tribute of a freewill offering of your hand, which you shall give just as the Lord your God blesses you;

Deuteronomy 16:11 and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God, you and your son and your daughter and your male and female servants and the Levite who is in your town, and the stranger and the orphan and the widow who are in your midst, in the place where the Lord your God chooses to establish His name.

Deuteronomy 16:12 You shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and you shall be careful to observe these statutes.

Rejoice at the Feast of Booths/Tabernacles

Deuteronomy 16:13 “You shall celebrate the Feast of Booths seven days after you have gathered in from your threshing floor and your wine vat;

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Deuteronomy 16:14 and you shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter and your male and female servants and the Levite and the stranger and the orphan and the widow who are in your towns.

Deuteronomy 16:15 Seven days you shall celebrate a feast to the Lord your God in the place which the Lord chooses, because the Lord your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you will be altogether joyful.

These feasts are related to Jesus Christ and the fulfillment of God the Father's plan for Him. As gotquestions.org says, "Like other Jewish feasts, the Feast of Weeks is important in that it foreshadows the coming Messiah and His ministry."⁴ As for the feast of Tabernacles gotquestions.org says, "While it cannot be established with certainty that Jesus was born during the Feast of Tabernacles, some believe there is a strong possibility the Feast of Tabernacles not only looks forward to His second coming but also reflects back on His first coming." Each and every one of the seven Jewish Feasts signifies an important aspect of God's plan of redemption through Jesus Christ. I was going to expand on this, but this would have overextended my time and abilities at this point. Let us leave it at the thrust of this word here is it's relationship to Christ's work during His 1st Advent and looks forward to the 2nd Advent. It sometimes was related to not just singing but dance and music.⁵

⁴ <https://www.gotquestions.org/Feast-of-Weeks.html>

⁵ TDOT Volume XIV page 146.

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4. Exult

This is another word that expresses God's victory over His enemies.

Psalm 68:1 Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered, And let those who hate Him flee before Him.

Psalm 68:2 As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; As wax melts before the fire, So let the wicked perish before God.

Psalm 68:3 But let the righteous be glad; let them exult before God; Yes, let them rejoice with gladness.

Psalm 68:4 Sing to God, sing praises to His name; Lift up a song for Him who rides through the deserts, Whose name is the Lord, and exult before Him.

To summarize: The Millennial Jews are exhorted to sing for joy (at the presence of Jesus Christ in their midst), shout in triumph because their God and Savior is triumphant in the Angelic Conflict, Rejoice at the fulfillment of the work of Jesus Christ in God's Plan and Be jubilant at the completed work of God, the victory in the Angelic Conflict, enjoying the peace of the Millennium. Pow!!!

Zephaniah 3:15 The Lord has taken away His judgments against you, He has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; You will fear disaster no more.

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The Lord has taken away judgments against you. Jesus Christ was judged for the eternal penalty of sin. It is canceled. There is no need for further discipline in time as those who enter the Millennium are all believers. The Jews apparently will be in status quo filling of the Holy Spirit.

He has cleared away your enemies. Not only will they be in status quo filling of the Holy Spirit, but the opposition they experienced under the devil's rule is gone. No enemies. Only their king Jesus Christ, our advocate with the Father, will be ruling unopposed on earth. And as we saw last week, the Jews will be held in high regard, above all other peoples.

The King of Israel, the Lord is in your midst.

We know from 1 Samuel that Yahweh/God (Jesus Christ) the Messiah, son of David is the king.

1 Samuel 8:7 The Lord said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them.

The implication, taking all the Old Testament passages together is that there will be a human being who is also God who will be descendant from David who becomes king of the entire earth during the kingdom/Millennium. And He will be in the midst of the Jewish nation Israel for 1,000 years and then for all eternity.

You will fear disaster no more. Need I say more?