



WOW: Word Of the Week

Jubilant

October 8, 2025

From Jubilee to jubilant. Are they connected? How?

[When I chose Jubilee as a WOW, there were no previous WOWs beginning with J.] I am fixing that omission with two consecutive J-WOWs. (The online translator of the closed captions will have trouble with that combination!)

Review. Jubilee is from Hebrew yobhel, the ram's horn trumpet that was used to announce the Year of Jubilee in the Old Testament. Originally, Jubilee had little connection with celebration or joy, although being set free, liberty, forgiveness of debt, land restored were certainly cause for celebration. The Hebrew word came into Latin as iubilaeus. "i-u-bil-aeus"

Jubilant is from a Latin verb – iubilare. "i-u-bil-a-re" Shout, shout for joy, express happiness or triumph.

Comparing the two Latin words, the first five letters are the same – i-u-bil... The two ideas were conflated (mixed together) since the jubilee year was a time of celebration. Today, both Jubilee and jubilant are consistently connected with joyful happiness.

Jubilant. Depending on your translation, not frequently used in Scripture.

KJV—0

ESV—2x, Ps 68:3, But the righteous shall be glad; they shall exult before God; they shall be **jubilant** with joy!

Isa. 24:8, The mirth of the tambourines is stilled, the noise of the **jubilant** has ceased, the mirth of the lyre is stilled.

NIV—5x, 1 Chr 16:32, Let the sea resound, and all that is in it; let the fields be **jubilant**, and everything in them!

Ps. 94:3, How long, Lord, will the wicked, how long will the wicked be **jubilant**?

Ps. 96:12, Let the fields be **jubilant**, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.

Ps. 98:4, Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into **jubilant** song with music;

Hosea 9:1, Do not rejoice, Israel; do not be **jubilant** like the other nations. You have been unfaithful to your God;

Be jubilant? Do not be jubilant?

Be jubilant about the right things!

Jubilant in righteousness, jubilant with joy. But not jubilant in evil, not jubilant in unfaithfulness

Jubilant with thanksgiving, David's prayer of gratitude

Jubilant in God's blessings.

Jubilant, rejoicing, connected most with God's blessings, gratitude, thanksgiving.

In our lives, we may rejoice fairly often. Do we rejoice about the things the Bible describes as cause for rejoicing?

Do we pray about spiritual illness as often as we pray about physical illness?

What causes us rejoicing?

Just thinking...maybe my WOW should have been jubilation!