

## ***PSALM 125-126 – The LORD the Strength of the People! A Joyful Return to Zion!***

10/2/21 Sat. Morn Prayer - P. Twente, [www.ptwente.com](http://www.ptwente.com) 714 425-9221; [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com)

### **ROCK OF AGES** – Augustus Toplady (1740-1778) , sung by Ernie Ford (2:39)

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me. Let me hide myself in Thee; Let the water and the blood  
From Thy wounded side which flowed, Be of sin the double cure; Save from wrath and make me pure.
2. Could my tears forever flow, Could my zeal no languor know, These for sin could not atone; Thou must save,  
and Thou alone. In my hand no price I bring; Simply to Thy cross I cling
3. While I draw this fleeting breath When my eyes shall close in death. When I rise to worlds unknown, and  
behold Thee on Thy Throne. Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee. Let me hide myself in Thee.

### ***The LORD the Strength of the People! - A Song of Ascents.***

***The Lord Surrounds His People*** Psalm 125 is one of those that speaks of the surroundings of the city.  
***Psa 125:1 Those who trust in the LORD Are like Mount Zion, Which cannot be moved, but abides forever.***

- Mount Zion, the mount upon which the city of David was built. A tremendous place of defense. It was almost God designed it to be easily defended. The mount Zion standing there. A reminder to the people. If they will put their trust in the Lord, they will be as mount Zion. They won't be removed but will stand steadfast. How important it is to put our trust in the Lord. The strength and stability that come.
- You put your trust in man and you're apt to be as one who is on a landslide. I mean, the mountain is moved. But putting your trust in the Lord. The strength, the stability, as mount Zion.

***Psa 125:2 As the mountains surround Jerusalem, So the LORD surrounds His people From this time forth and forever.***

- On the east side of Jerusalem, mount of Olives On the south side of Jerusalem, above it and looking out, what is called traditionally, the mount of evil counsel. It is thought that that is the mountain in which Ahithophel gave his counsel to Absalom when he was coming to Jerusalem to overtake his father.
- To the north side of Jerusalem, Mount Scopus. Jerusalem is surrounded by the mountains and thus here, "As the mountains surround Jerusalem." The pilgrims standing there in Jerusalem seeing mount Scopus, the mount of Olives, the mount of evil counsel, and as these mountains surround Jerusalem,
- *So the LORD surrounds His people From this time forth and forever.* How our lives are so encompassed by God. In Psalm 139 we find David saying, (***Psa 139:5***) *You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.* " I'm surrounded by God. I never arrive at any place but what God has not preceded me there and prepared me for that place and prepared that place for me. God goes before me. He surrounds me.
- The Lord said to the children of Israel that through their wandering in the wilderness, through those forty years, He said I went before you and prepared the place for you to pitch your tents. God always goes before us. He prepares the place for us to pitch our tents. I do not arrive at any point or any situation in life but what God has not preceded me there. He prepared the place for me to pitch my tent and in turn, prepared me for that place.

***Psa 125:3 For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest On the land allotted to the righteous, Lest the righteous reach out their hands to iniquity.***

- *For the scepter of the wicked shall not rest On the land allotted to the righteous.* The people of God are not to expect immunity from trial because the Lord surrounds them, for they may feel the power and persecution of the ungodly. Egypt's rod was exceeding heavy upon Israel, but the time came for it to be broken. God has set a limit to the woes of his chosen, the rod may light on their portion, but it shall not rest upon it. The saints abide for ever, but their troubles will not.
- *Lest the righteous reach out their hands to iniquity.*" The tendency of oppression is to drive the best of

men into some hasty deed for self-deliverance or vengeance. We may therefore expect that he will set a bound to the suffering of the innocent, and will not allow them to be pushed to the uttermost extreme.

- Especially in point of time he will limit the domination of the persecutor, for length adds strength to oppression, and makes it intolerable: hence the Lord himself said of a certain tribulation, "except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved; but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." It seems that even righteous men are in peril of sinning in evil days, and that it is not the will of the Lord that they should yield to the stress of the times in order to escape from suffering.

***Psa 125:4 Do good, O LORD, to those who are good, And to those who are upright in their hearts.***

***Psa 125:5 As for such as turn aside to their crooked ways, The LORD shall lead them away With the workers of iniquity. Peace be upon Israel!***

- Men to be good at all must be good at heart. Those who trust in the Lord are good; for faith is the root of righteousness, and the evidence of uprightness.
- Faith in God is a good and upright thing, and its influence makes the rest of the man good and upright. To such God will do good.
- The prayer of the text is but another form of promise, for that which the Lord prompts us to ask he virtually promises to give. Jehovah will take off evil from his people, and in the place thereof will enrich them with all manner of good. When the rod of the wicked is gone his own rod and staff shall comfort us. Meanwhile it is for us to pray that it may be well with all the upright who are now among men. God bless them, and do them good in every possible form.
- That is actually sort of a prayer, *Peace be upon Israel*. The prayer, "Do good, O Lord, unto those that are good, to those that are upright in their hearts." Lord, just be good to them. "But for those that turn aside to crooked ways, the LORD will take care of them, lead them forth with the workers of iniquity: but peace upon Israel."

***A Joyful Return to Zion! - A Song of Ascents.***

***Restore Our Fortunes, O Lord***

- ***Psa 126:1 A Song of Ascents. When the LORD brought back the captivity of Zion, We were like those who dream.*** The 126th psalm has to do with the return from the captivity of Zion.
- *When the LORD brought back the captivity of Zion, We were like those who dream.* Being in trouble the gracious pilgrims remember: for their comfort times of national woe which were succeeded by remarkable deliverances. Then sorrow was gone like a dream, and the joy which followed was so great that it seemed too good to be true, and they feared that it must be the vision of an idle brain. So sudden and so overwhelming was their joy that they felt like men out of themselves, ecstatic, or in a trance. The captivity had been great, and great was the deliverance; for the great God himself had wrought it: it seemed too good to be actually true: each man said to himself, -

***Psa 126:2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter, And our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."***

- *Then our mouth was filled with laughter, And our tongue with singing.* So full were they of joy that they could not contain themselves. They must express their joy and yet they could not find expression for it. Irrepressible mirth could do no other than laugh, for speech was far too dull a thing for it.
- The mercy was so unexpected, so amazing, so singular that they could not do less than laugh; and they laughed much, so that their mouths were full of it, and that because their hearts were full too.
- *Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them.* The heathen heard the songs of Israel, and the better sort among them soon guessed the cause of their joy.
- Jehovah has indeed done marvellous things for his chosen, and these "great things" shall be themes for eternal praise among all intelligent creatures.

***Psa 126:3 The LORD has done great things for us, And we are glad.***

- The young ones, when they laid the foundation of the new temple. There was a great celebration. They were just shouting and rejoicing. All the neighbors round about could hear the shouts of joy and excitement that went up as they laid the foundations for the new temple, rebuilding again the temple. But the old ones, they were a few really old fellows who could remember the temple of Solomon and all of its glory. Though these young ones were just singing and shouting and making a loud noise, the older ones were weeping. It was pitiful in comparison to the glorious Solomon's Temple. So, the older ones were weeping for the lost glory though the new ones were rejoicing in anticipation.

***Psa 126:4 Bring back our captivity, O LORD, As the streams in the South.***

- At this time, of course, not all had come back from their captivity. So, they're praying for the remnant that they also might return. "Even as the streams in the south." Down in the south, the Negev, very dry and arid area. But during the rains they have these flash floods and the gullies, and the washes are just filled with water. But it's a seasonal thing. It's a dry, arid place but wow, you get some of those summer thunderheads and showers. You can get some flash floods. The gullies are filled with water and overflow. Lord, let it be like those streams, the flood coming, of the return of Your people.

***Psa 126:5 Those who sow in tears Shall reap in joy.***

- They can remember the weeping, the tears as they were carried away captive. The prayers, the tears as they cried unto the Lord. Some forty-seven times the Bible speaks about crying to the Lord. Twenty-one times it commands you to cry unto the Lord. But "they cried unto the Lord" is mentioned about forty-seven times in the Bible. Thus, the tears when prayers are offered.
- Your heart is so burdened over the needs as you think of the conditions and as you bring these petitions to God, you're just overwhelmed with the emotions of sorrow for what's happening, what's going on. So, as they were in captivity, the tears, sowing in tears but now, the time of harvest. The reaping in joy.

***Psa 126:6 He who continually goes forth weeping, Bearing seed for sowing, Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, Bringing his sheaves with him.***

- This, the sowing and reaping, the precious seed, bringing forth the harvest. The sowing in tears. The seed is the Word of God and the planting of the Word of God in the hearts of others. It's something that should never be done from a pompous, holier than thou attitude. You shouldn't cram the Word of God down people's throats nor should you use the Bible as a club to beat people with it. We are to use it as a scalpel, a sharp two-edged sword. Let it cut the heart. But the cutting with the scalpel is always for the purpose of healing. It's never for the purpose of destroying.
- We are never to use the Bible as an instrument to try and destroy someone. Use it in love to bring healing. Sow in tears. Jesus, as He saw Jerusalem and its rejection, realizing what it would cost them, wept over Jerusalem. *They that sow in tears shall reap in joy!*

**GREAT THINGS - Phil Wickham (4:50)**

Come let us worship our King  
 Come let us bow at His feet  
 He has done great things  
 See what our Savior has done  
 See how His love overcomes  
 He has done great things  
 He has done great things  
 Oh, hero of Heaven, You conquer the grave  
 You free every captive and break every chain  
 Oh God, You have done great things  
 We dance in Your freedom, awake and alive  
 Oh Jesus, our Savior, Your name lifted high  
 Oh God, You have done great things  
 You've been faithful through every storm  
 You'll be faithful forevermore  
 You have done great things  
 And I know You will do it again  
 For Your promise is "Yes and Amen"  
 You will do great things  
 God, You do great things  
 Oh, hero of Heaven, You conquer the grave  
 You free every captive and break every chain  
 Oh God, You have done great things  
 We dance in Your freedom, awake and alive  
 Oh Jesus, our Savior, Your name lifted high  
 Oh God, You have done great things  
 Hallelujah God, above it all  
 Hallelujah God, unshakable  
 Hallelujah, You have done great things  
 Hallelujah God, above it all  
 Hallelujah God, unshakable  
 Hallelujah, You have done great things  
 You've done great things  
 Oh, hero of Heaven, You conquer the grave  
 You free every captive and break every chain  
 Oh God, You have done great things  
 We dance in Your freedom, awake and alive  
 Oh Jesus, our Savior, Your name lifted high  
 Oh God, You have done great things  
 You have done great things  
 Oh God, You do great things

**PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE OFFICERS/MILITARY; ISRAEL:  
PRAY FOR OUR NATION'S LEADERS: PRAY FOR CALIFORNIA: PRAY FOR WORLD LEADERS: - Pray for World Leaders, especially their salvation!**

**Prayer Request List: Eastern Africa -Uganda/Congo**

**Pastor Ed Cornwell – Departing Sept 1 for 1-2 months; Planning on moving there within the coming year.**

**(1) CC KASEGA Senior pastor : Opech Francis and ass: Omusugu Christopher. Prayer request : - To reach out to the lost through radio preaching of the gospel. - projector for gospel - ministry truck to reach out to different places to carry on the gospel - God's provision to the elderly, widows, and orphans because we have many. - God's provision to the school of ministry/Discipleship class to resume again.**

**(2) CC NAZIGO. Pastor Ocho Augustine. Prayer request : Completion of the church building.**

**(3) CC NAMALUMBA. #Senior pr: Damba Richard and ass pr Isaac mugambi**

**-Prayer request : Completion of the church building loan in the bank.**

**(4) CC LWANYAMA. # Senior pr Charles Baliraine and ass Pr Simon Nabuti : Prayer request. - Piggery project to sustain the ministry - Encouragement to the weakening church members.**

**(5) CC BUDOODA. # Senior pr Charles Muwanguzi and ass pr Noah Byaruhanga. :**

**Prayer request. - Poverty is too much in members and leaders. - Shifting of the church building to the new location due to water table here.**

**(6) Cc KITEREDE.**

**# Senior pr Cosmas Konyo. :Prayer request. - Evangelism instruments; - Completion of their semi-permanent church building and seats.**

**(7) CC KISOZI. # Senior pr : kezekia : Prayer request. – Rent; -piggery project to buy church land.**

**(8) CC BUGIRI. # Senior pr : Papa Jofrey. : Prayer request : - Church construction ( iron sheets); - Evangelism instruments - Door to door evangelism.**

**In addition: pastor Oyet from AMURU UGANDA the new Calvary in far north of Uganda. Also, Pastor Hassan has a church in a SURROUNDING VILLAGE OF KAMPALA. Also, Pastor Faustin in the CONGOLESE REFUGEE CAMP IN UGANDA.**

**Lastly pastor Aaron of CC KAJJANSI - 1. school of ministry , we need God's guidance, wisdom, and provision 2. Our extension of the church building God to provide so we can put a roof on the expansion part of the church be4 the wall becomes weak. 3. Aaron and Rebecca needs capital to restock their business so we can support our family and the church. 4. prayers for children who have been out of school for about 2 years now that they may not become spoiled and remain focused. 5. Our government to consider reopening of churches**