

PSALM 126 2024 – A Joyful Return to Zion!

3/23/24 Sat. Morn Prayer - P. Twente, www.ptwente.com 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

A Joyful Return to Zion! - A Song of Ascents. Restore Our Fortunes, as a Backslider! O Lord

The Psalm divides itself into a narrative (1,2); a song (3); a prayer (4); and a promise (5 and 6)

- ***Psa 126:1 A Song of Ascents. When the LORD brought back (restored) the captivity (fortunes) of Zion, We were like those who dream.*** The 126th psalm has to do with the return from the captivity of Zion. God's children have always experienced captivity in some context.
- *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.

A song (3):

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 roundabout 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.

A prayer (4):

Psa 126:4 Bring back (restore, recall, turnaround from our backslide) our captivity (fortunes), O LORD, As the streams (wadis, ravines) in the South (Negev).

- We want to be released and filled! 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.

A promise (5 and 6):

Psa 126:5 Those who sow in tears (hard times) Shall reap in joy.

- No sowing, no reaping! You reap what you sow! You always reap more than you sow! 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 (precious) seed for sowing, Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, Bringing his sheaves (harvest) 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!* **Returning from back sliding is hard, but it is so worth it, to return to having the peace with and of God! Where sin abounds, grace hyper abounds!**

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!

CC LIVING WORD STAFF/LEADERSHIP – FOR A NEW LOCATION!!

CLOSING SONGS - Old Rugged Cross--Were You There?-- Hallelujah Chorus

THE OLD RUGGED CROSS – George Bennard – sung by George Beverly Shea (2:53)

*On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross
The emblem of suffering and shame
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain*

*Refrain: So I'll cherish the old rugged cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown*

*O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above
to bear it to dark Calvary. [Refrain]*

WERE YOU THERE ? – Fred Waring Singers (3:44)

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

*Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?*

*Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

HALLELUJAH CHORUS – Handel (4:06)

Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah

*For the lord God omnipotent reigneth Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah
For the lord God omnipotent reigneth Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah
For the lord God omnipotent reigneth (Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah)
For the lord God omnipotent reigneth (Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah)
Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah (Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah)
For the lord God omnipotent reigneth (Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah)
Hallelujah*

The kingdom of this world Is become The kingdom of our Lord, And of His Christ And of His Christ

*And He shall reign forever and ever
And He shall reign forever and ever (And He shall reign forever and ever)
And He shall reign forever and ever (And He shall reign forever and ever)
And he shall reign forever and ever (And He shall reign forever and ever)*

*King of kings (Forever and ever hallelujah hallelujah)
And lord of lords (Forever and ever hallelujah hallelujah)
King of kings (Forever and ever hallelujah hallelujah)
And lord of lords (Forever and ever hallelujah hallelujah)
King of kings (Forever and ever hallelujah hallelujah)
And lord of lords King of kings and lord of lords*

*And he shall reign forever and ever (And he shall reign)
And he shall reign forever and ever (And he shall reign)*

*King of kings forever and ever And lord of lords hallelujah hallelujah
And he shall reign forever, forever and ever*

*King of kings and lord of lords King of kings and lord of lords
And he shall reign forever and ever (And he shall reign forever and ever)*

Forever and ever, forever and ever (King of kings and lord of lords)

Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah Hallelujah!