

## Psalm 126

### Introduction:

1. Last Thursday we were reminded that there is *"a time to weep"* and *"a time to mourn"* (Ecclesiastes 3:4).
  - a. We remembered what happened on September 11, 2001.
  - b. We also lost a dear friend unexpectedly.
2. Today, as we observe the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the congregation, we are reminded that there is also a time to *"rejoice and be glad"* (Psalm 118:24).
3. In our lesson we are concentrating on the message presented in Psalm 126.
4. To properly understand this psalm we must be mindful of . . .

### Discussion:

#### I. THE HISTORICAL SETTING

- A. In 606 BC, the Babylonians took control of Judah, the southern kingdom.
- B. In 586 BC, the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 36:17-21).
- C. Psalm 137:1 shows how the Jews felt while they were in Babylon.
- D. (2 Chronicles 36:22-23) The Persians conquered Babylon and allowed the Jews who so desired to return to Jerusalem.
- E. Several psalms were written after the captivity ended (ex.: Psalm 85).
- F. Psalm 126 expresses the feelings of the Jews after they were released from captivity.

#### II. PSALM 126

- A. (vs.1-3) The Jews reflected upon their release from captivity.
  1. (vs.1a) The time element is revealed -- *"when the Lord turned again the captivity of Zion."*
  2. How the Jews felt:
    - a. (vs.1b) *"We were like them that dream."*
    - b. (vs.2a) They laughed.
    - c. (vs.2b) They sang.
    - d. (vs.3b) They were glad.
  3. God was praised for what He had done.
    - a. (vs.3a) The Jews said, *"The Lord hath done great things for us."*
    - b. (vs.2c) Heathens said, *"The Lord hath done great things for them."*
  4. Years earlier,:
    - a. Solomon had made a request of God on behalf of his people when he dedicated the temple (2 Chronicles 6:24-31)
    - b. God granted Solomon's request (2 Chronicles 7:12-14).
  5. As the Jews reflected upon their release from captivity, they acknowledged God's greatness, and they experienced great joy.
- B. (vs.4-6) The Jews made an additional request of God.
  1. (vs.4a) The request: *"Turn again our captivity, O Lord."*
    - a. When the Jews returned to Jerusalem, they found devastation, the land needed to be planted, and the land needed rain.
    - b. (vs.4b) They asked God to return their captivity *"as the streams in the south."*
  2. (vs.5-6) The Jews expected to rejoice again.
    - a. They might have to sow in tears (vs.5a, 6a).
    - b. However, they were confident they would reap in joy (vs.5b, 6b).
  3. As the Jews asked God to bless their land, they were confident He would do so.

### Conclusion:

1. Let us gain a new appreciation for the statement in Psalm 126:3.
2. Let us ask God to bless our efforts to sow His seed so we can bring in the sheaves and glorify Him.
3. Ephesians 3:20-21