

PSALM 126

This psalm has a warmth and confidence all its own. It begins with a reminiscent note by thinking back upon the happy days when Israel had apparently just returned from Babylon, the land of its captivity. The obvious intent of the Psalmist is to furnish a background for his petition that this great work of rehabilitating a nation might be brought to full completion. This psalm will yet be sung once more in a still more joyous strain when the glad tidings of Israel's final restoration break upon her scattered tribes. When the summons from the Messiah sounds forth for all the Jewish people to return to their beloved land, then will the inhabitants of the earth exclaim, "Yahweh has done great things for them!"

A Song of Ascents

- 1 When YAHWEH brought back the captive ones of Zion, we were like those who dream.
- 2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with joyful shouting;
then they said among the nations, "YAHWEH has done great things for them."
- 3 YAHWEH has done great things for us; we are glad.
- 4 Restore our captivity, O YAHWEH, as the streams in the South.
- 5 Those who sow in tears shall reap with joyful shouting.
- 6 He who goes to and fro weeping, carrying *his* bag of seed,
shall indeed come again with a shout of joy, bringing his sheaves *with him*.

PRAYER

Almighty Yahweh, we give you praise for your tender regard for the nation of Israel. Give us a hearty zeal in proclaiming to them the glad tidings that Jesus, their Messiah, has come to give his life a ransom for sinners. And keep us ever watchful for the day of our Saviour's return, when he shall gather all his elect to himself. A reward awaits those who build on Christ's foundation with gold, silver, and precious stones. Make us work now and spread the gospel seed while it is day, for the night is soon coming when our time to work will be no more. The fields are white for harvest now. Oh, let us not be like the sluggard, we plead, lazing about as if there were nothing for us to do. Open our eyes, lest when Jesus arrives we have no sheaves to bring with us. We bring these petitions before you in his name. Amen.