

There is a song that was written in 1932 that has been used for a Presidential campaign; it is the name of a movie and it is rated #47 in the list of greatest American songs. The song is “Happy Days Are Here Again.” That song reflects well Psalm 126 because there will come a day when happy days will exist forever in Israel.

Psalm 126 is a Psalm of Ascents. It is a Psalm that predicts great happiness and joy will eventually be enjoyed by Israel and the people of God. In fact, when you look down through these six verses, we cannot help but notice the amount of words that refer to joy, happiness and gladness. Those very words show up in **verses 2, 3, 5, 6.**

The main point of this Psalm is clear:

THERE WILL COME A DAY WHEN GOD WILL DO A GREAT AND AWESOME THING FOR ISRAEL THAT WILL LEAVE HER SHOUTING FOR JOY.

There is coming a day when God will regather Israel and bring her into her land and fill her will all of His blessings. She will never again be subservient to any nation or any one. She will be seen and known as the great nation of God and she will finally be happy.

This Psalm not only predicts this will happen, it tells exactly what things will be like when God finally does all of these things for Israel.

Now **verse 1** tells the history of Israel. Israel has been chased out of Zion and the LORD is one day going to regather her and bring her back.

When the text says, “when the LORD brought back the captive ones,” it is communicating that there will come a day when God will go get His entire nation of Israel from all corners of the world and bring it back to the land where she belongs. Jesus Christ specifically said He would do this (Matt. 24:29-31).

God’s nation is described as being “captive ones.” This adjectival description should have never been used of Israel. She should be the free nation and the great nation of God. This is God’s nation. This is the apple of God’s eye. She should have been the freest nation on earth. Instead she has been taken captive out of her land and often held captive in her land.

Israel certainly is not a free nation now. She is boxed in by Palestinian forces that would just as soon execute her.

Zion not only refers to bringing her back to the land of Israel, but also bringing her to Jerusalem and back to her Temple that actually sits on Mount Zion.

Now since there is no Temple even in existence now, one would have to admit this would be an amazing thing if God did it. He will do it.

PART #1 – The description of the attitude Israel will have when God restores her. **126:1-3**

What is described in these verses is the feeling Israel will have when this finally happens. When God finally takes her from captivity to freedom, there are five attitudes Israel will have:

Attitude #1 - Israel will think she is dreaming. **126:1b**

The language in Hebrew means that the people are so overwhelmed with what God has done that it is like they are dreaming. It will be the ultimate dream for Israel that will come true. When God blesses His people, it is like a dream. The entire millennial kingdom for Israel will be like living in a dream world.

Sometimes we humorously say—when someone asks how we are doing—we are living the dream. Well for believers there will come a day when we will be saying that every day. In eternity all of our dreams will come true.

Attitude #2 - Israel will have laughter. **126:2a**

When we look around at our world today, there is not much to laugh about. If you are a believer you see things that make you cry. But there will come a day when God's people will be laughing.

Attitude #3 - Israel will have joyful shouting. **126:2b**

Now keep in mind that this is describing the nation Israel. This joyful shouting is mentioned three times in this Psalm (**v. 2, 5, 6**). One day when Israel is laughing and shouting for joy, it will be like she is living in a dream world.

Attitude #4 - Israel will make a statement to the nations. **126:2c-3**

There will come a time when Israel will be the great evangelistic nation of God. Her mouth and her tongue will be testifying of the greatness of God to all the nations of the world.

The specific statement she will be making to the nations is that God has done great things for His people.

This is the statement she should be making now. She is not because frankly, it doesn't look like God is anywhere to be seen.

Israel is certainly not boasting of this now. When nations of the world look at her or listen to her, she certainly is not testifying of the greatness of God.

There will come a day when Israel will be seen and known as the great nation of God and she will be testifying of what God has done to all the nations.

This does raise an important point for us to see. Some believers always look on the dark side of everything and when you look at them or listen to them they do not make any statement for the greatness of God. But we ought to be testifying of all God has done for us and the wonderful things we have seen Him do. There will come a day when Israel will do just that.

Attitude #5 - Israel will be glad. **126:3b**

There is coming a day when the entire nation will be glad and will rejoice. This will be a national time of rejoicing. No more sadness and sorrow

PART #2 – The description of the attitude of Israel when God answers Israel’s prayers. **126:4-6**

The assumption of the beginning of **verse 4** is that God’s people are praying to God asking God to restore them from captivity.

When Jesus was here He predicted that there would come a day when the entire nation would cry out to Him (Matt. 23:39). It will be this moment that will lead to her great, joyful blessings.

The prayer to God is for Him to restore Israel from her captivity to her land. During the Tribulation, Israel will flee out of her land (Matt. 24:15-21). So this will prompt her to cry out to God.

Now the prayer is that she be restored “as the streams in the south.” To the south of Israel’s land is dry ground, for the most part. The summer heat dries up most water supplies. But when God sends His rain, those dry places can become flowing streams and they can quickly fill with water.

In fact, the streams in the south were known to swiftly fill with water. It was a very dry area and when the rains would come, they would fill quickly and run swiftly.

The point is that God can swiftly turn dry places into places filled with His blessings.

Israel was in a national drought and the prayer is that God will come like a pouring rain and quickly and swiftly fill her with His blessings.

It is possible that the people were literally experiencing a physical drought in which nothing was being watered and nothing was growing.

Now a critical factor for this happening is prayer. This Psalm communicates the importance of persistent prayer even in the worst possible situations.

Reaction #1 - Those who sow in tears will end up with joyful shouting. **126:5**

When the crop was planted, they hoped they would reap a harvest. When you plant a crop in dry barren land the chances are slim.

Reaction #2 - Those who sowed seed in tears will reap great fruit in joy. **126:6**

The point is that one day all of the efforts to believe God and stay focused on the Word of God will pay off and pay off big.

Sometimes we sow the truth and don't see any instant fruit. This Psalm says one day you will.