

Date: 6-29-2022-Wednesday night.

Church: Safe Harbor Baptist Church

Text: Psalm 126

Title: "The God that turns things around"

Pastor Josh Montgomery

Introduction:

Degrees comes from a root word that means "ascents" or to "go up, as ascending stairs.

There are 15 of these Psalms in order.

The context of Psalm 126 is commonly believed to be around the time of Ezra and Nehemiah.

It was during this time that the Babylonian captivity was coming to an end and the Jews were returning back to Israel.

In this text we find this wonderful theme that no matter what situation you are in **"God can turn it around"!**

End of Introduction:

I. The Providence of the Sovereign. Vs 1-3

"When the Lord turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream."

1. We note the **Captivity**. Vs 1b

"the captivity of Zion,"

Israel in this context had been in captivity for some 70 years, but now things were turning around.

During this Captivity they were:

- **Detained.**

They don't see a way out!

- **Discouraged.**

Psalm 137:1-4 **By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. 2 We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. 3 For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion. 4 How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?**

- **Despised.**
- **Defeated.**

But the LORD turned things around!

2. We note the **Change**. Vs 1a

"When the Lord turned again the captivity of Zion,"

The word "Turned" in this text means to restore, to bring back, to change.

They were:

- Bound
- Broken
- Burdened
- Bruised
- But God turned it around!

3. We note the **Comparison**. Vs 1c

“we were like them that dream.”

This little phrase indicates that the people were saying “Is this really happening?”

They were Amazed at what God had done for them!

Dreams do come true!

4. We note the **Celebration**. Vs 2a & 3

Vs 2a “Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing:”

Vs 3 “The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.”

- The laughter speaks of **Joy**.

Nehemiah 8:10 Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the Lord is your strength.

Psalm 5:11 But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.

- The singing speaks of **Jubilation**.

Psalm 40:1-3 I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. 2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. 3 And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord.

Acts 16:25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

5. We note the **Consideration**. Vs 2b

“then said they among the heathen, The Lord hath done great things for them.”

The deliverance and the turning of the captivity of Israel was so evident that even the heathen could tell that God had done something for them!

The Heathen admitted to the:

- A. The **Awareness** of God.

“The Lord”

The heathen may have been bowing down to idols, but they admitted that there was a God in Israel!

- B. The **Activity** of God.

“hath done”

They could see the evident hand of God working on behalf for Israel!

C. The **Ability** of God.

“great things”

D. The **Affection** of God.

“for them”

Consider the 3 Hebrew men in the fire.

Daniel 3:23-28 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. 24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. 25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God. 26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire. 27 And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them. 28 Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.

Consider Daniel

Daniel 6:19-23 Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions. 20 And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions? 21 Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever. 22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt. 23 Then was the king exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

II. The **Prayer** of **Sincerity**. Vs 4

“Turn again our captivity, O Lord, as the streams in the south.”

1. The **Request Practically**. Vs 4

“Turn again our captivity, O Lord, as the streams in the south.”

The primary interpretation tells us that there were still those that were still in captivity, and the Psalmist had a burden for those who were still bound.

Practically in this text the Psalmist is praying that God would allow all those who were still in Captivity to be allowed to return to the homeland of Israel.

The “streams in the south” in a reference to the Southland and during the dry seasons, these rivers would be dried up and parched from the sun, but when the rainy season came these rivers would begin to flow!

The Psalmist is praying that God would allow the Jews to return to the land, just as the rivers flowed in the southlands during the rainy seasons!

Application: We have been delivered, but we should still carry a burden for those who are still bound by the enemy.

2. The Revelation Prophetically. Vs 4

“Turn again our captivity, O Lord, as the streams in the south.”

This verse also refers to the future deliverance of the nation of Israel in the tribulation period.

The Jews have been scattered throughout the earth, but the drawing power of God has been turned back to the Jew and they are being drawn back to their homeland of Israel.

III. The Principle of Sowing. Vs 5-6

“They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. 6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.”

This verse does not seem to fit the context and it seems to be out of place, but we know that these verses are exactly where God wants it to be in the canon of the scriptures.

The context of this scripture is referring to the fact that these Jews have been out of their homeland for some 70 years and the ground has not been plowed, and prepared for sowing and for a harvest.

Thus, the principle of sowing in this text is teaching us that we need to be faithful in the field!

The ground was hard, and even though God turned things around for the people of Israel, there was still a job to be done, they still had some responsibility.

Point: Just because God turns things around in our life does not negate our responsibilities to be faithful and to be fervent!

1. You need to Work. Vs 5a

“They that sow”

Sowing involves:

- A. Plowman.
- B. Plow.
- C. Plowing.
- D. Persistency.
- E. Planting.

2. You need to Weep. Vs 6a

Vs 5a “They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.”

Vs 6a “He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed,”

The ground was hardened by the elements and the dryness of the land.

If there was going to be a product, there would have to be passion!

Does it mean anything to you?

3. You need to Wait. Vs 5b-6

Vs 5b “shall reap in joy.”

Vs 6 “shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.”

Production does not come over night; it involves time and waiting!