

A Song of Ascents.

¹ When the Lord brought back the captivity of Zion,
We were like those who dream.

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."

³ The Lord has done great things for us,
And we are glad.

⁴ Bring back our captivity, O Lord,
As the streams in the South.

⁵ Those who sow in tears
Shall reap in joy.

⁶ He who continually goes forth weeping,
Bearing seed for sowing,
Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing,
Bringing his sheaves *with him*.

Psalm 126

1. Delivered from Captivity

When the Lord brought back the captivity of Zion,
We were like those who dream.

Psalm 126:1

- a) This was prophesied
- b) Isaiah 45 prophesied of King Cyrus of the Medo-Persian empire releasing Israel from captivity

2. Rejoicing in God's deliverance

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."

³ The Lord has done great things for us,
And we are glad.

Psalm 126:2-3

- a) Expressions of Joy
 - i) Laughter
 - ii) Singing
- b) On-lookers
 - i) They recognised God's hand of deliverance
 - ii) The deliverance was truly extraordinary Isaiah 45
- c) National response
 - i) Gratitude
 - ii) Gladness of heart

A HEARTFELT PRAYER

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As the streams in the South.

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Psalm 126:4-6

1. Praying for full deliverance to take place

2. Streams in South

- a) In the Negev is in the South of Judah (semi-desert)
- b) Very little rainfall annually
- c) But when the rains come from heaven
- d) The whole Negev region is changed dramatically
 - i) The wadies overflow
 - ii) The torrents of water come suddenly
 - iii) This imagery was chosen to reflect God's divine power at work

3. Appropriate response

- a) To sow in tears
- b) To reap in joy
- c) To sow in trust