

## “CAUSE FOR REJOICING”

Psalm 126:1-6  
( A Psalm of Joy )

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

### Questions:

1. What is the source of joy for all who believe?
2. What causes the believer to “fill their tongue with singing” ? (v. 2)
3. What is it that results in “gladness of heart” ? (v. 5)
4. What encourages the one who “sows in tears” ? (v. 5)
5. What is promised to all who “faint not” in Christian service?

### — INTRODUCTION —

- Psalm 126 is titled “A Song of Degrees” .
- It is a fervent song of joy and gladness.
- It is the song of joyful people whose hearts are filled with glad rejoicing.
- It is a song that was written to describe the feelings of God’s people.
- It reveals the source, the cause, the reason, the background for a joyful spirit in us all.

### Notice The Joy:

“Then was our mouth filled with **laughter**, and our tongue with **singing**” (v. 2)

“The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are **glad.**” (v. 3)

“They that sow in tears shall reap in **joy.**” (v. 5)

Question: Why are the Jews in Psalm 126 rejoicing?

Question: What are the specific causes for their gladness of heart?

Question: How is it they are filled with singing?

### The 3 Causes For Rejoicing

#### I. Deliverance from Captivity (v. 1-3)

“When the Lord turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream.” (v. 1)

Question: What was the captivity?

Question: How was it like “a dream come true” ?

Fact: The Jews were celebrating a great deliverance.

Fact: The Jews were celebrating freedom from captivity.

Fact: The celebration of Psalm 126 refers to the time the Lord delivered Jerusalem from the Assyrian Army, when Hezekiah was king of Judah. (II Kings 18, 19; II Chronicles 32; Isaiah 36, 37)

(This deliverance is not the Babylonian Captivity)

### Because...

1. Psalm 126 describes a sudden deliverance (which the return from Babylon was not); the 70 years captivity was foreknown by the Jews ahead of time. (Jeremiah 25:11; Daniel 9:2)
2. Psalm 126 focuses in on Zion (the city of Jerusalem), not the whole nation of Judah.
3. Psalm 126 reveals that the Gentile nations near Jerusalem praised God with the Jews at their deliverance. Just the opposite took place when the Jews returned home from the Babylonian Captivity. (Ezra 4; Nehemiah 2)

### What Is The Deliverance ?

1. This deliverance was when the Lord delivered Jerusalem from the enemy Assyrian Army.
2. Hezekiah (the godly king) refused to pay tribute to Assyria.
3. Sennacherib then sent his army to Judah to subdue Jerusalem.
4. Hezekiah went to prayer with Isaiah.
5. God then slew 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in one night by an angel of the Lord.
6. The result was that King Hezekiah was “magnified in the sight of all the nations” (II Chronicles 32:23)

### It Was Like A “Dream Come True”

“We were like them that dream” (v. 1)

**Question:** How was this deliverance like a “dream come true” ?

**Answer:** The Jews could hardly believe it was true.  
The Jews could scarcely believe it was real.  
The Jews were overwhelmed with God’s intervention.  
The Jews were overpowered with joy unspeakable.

### Why All the Fuss ?

The people are finally **free, delivered, liberated, and out of bondage.**

### And the Result Is...

“Then was our mouth filled with laughter and our tongue with singing ... whereof we are glad” (v. 2, 3)

### The Application Is Clear:

That a glad heart is the result of knowing that God has freed you from every power of the enemy.

### Deliverance & Freedom Is God’s Idea

- “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32)
- “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed” (John 8:36)
- “Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness” (Romans 6:18)
- “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free” (Galatians 5:1)
- “He hath sent me to preach deliverance to the captives” (Luke 4:18)

### What Has Jesus Freed You From ?

1. You were freed from the guilt and punishment of sin. (Romans 8:1)
2. You were freed from the bondage of sin's dominion. (Romans 6:7)
3. You were freed from the power of Satan and his forces. (Colossians 1:13)
4. You were freed from the law which pronounced your judgment. (Romans 7:1-6)
5. You were freed from the fear of death in this life. (I Corinthians 15:50-58)
6. You were freed from the worry of necessary provisions. (Matthew 6:33)
7. You were freed from the thought of not seeing Jesus for yourself. (John 14:1-6)

### Our Response To The Amazing Grace (That Touched Our Lives)

“Whereof we are glad” (v. 3)

Our soul is filled with joy.

Our soul is filled with peace.

Our soul is filled with singing.

Our soul is filled with rejoicing.

**Question:** Why is there rejoicing night and day?

**Answer:** Because we've been delivered from all captivity !!!

### II. Distribution of Fresh Water (v. 4)

“Turn again our captivity, O Lord, as the streams in the south (desert)” (v. 4)

**Question:** How do “streams in the south” illustrate the work of the Lord?

**Fact:** The psalmist leaves the city of Zion (Jerusalem) and takes us to the country.

**Fact:** The word “south” in verse 3 is from the word “Negev” .

**Fact:** The word Negev means “dry” because this was the land south of Israel near the desert.

**Fact:** During the dry summer seasons, the riverbeds would be dead, dry, exposed and empty.

**Fact:** When the rains came, the riverbeds would again be filled and overflowing.

### Thus Israel Prays:

- “Turn again our captivity, O Lord, as the streams in the desert.” (or)
- “Lord, relieve our present misery now, just like the streams in the desert.”
- “Lord, one moment the riverbed is dead and dry, but then suddenly it becomes a flowing river.”
- “Lord, renew us and refill us just like you renew and refill the empty water beds in the desert.”

### Why So Meaningful To Israel ?

- Because Israel's water sources were cut off by the Assyrian Army!
- Because after Israel's deliverance, they would need the rain to enable their crops to grow!
- Because the water necessary had been withheld!
- Because the water supply had been interrupted!

### **But God Changes Things**

The Lord that saw Jerusalem once empty, will now see Jerusalem full.  
The Lord that answered prayer before, will now answer prayer again.

### **In other Words**

“Lord, you have begun to fill the dry riverbeds with your blessing.”  
“But Lord, keep it up until we are flooded with water from above.”

### **Simply...**

“Lord, we are glad we are free from captivity.”  
“But Lord, we want to be full and overflowing and poured upon with your water.”

### **The Application Is Clear**

That the joyfulness of the believer is determined by the fullness of the believer!  
That the contentment of the believer is determined by the fullness of the believer!  
That the effectiveness of the believer is determined by the fullness of the believer!

### **And This Is Our Inheritance**

- “The water that I shall give, shall be a well of water springing up” (John 4:14)
- “He that believeth on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.” (John 7:38)
- “Therefore, with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.” (Isaiah 12:3)
- “I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground” (Isaiah 44:3)

### **Oh, To Be Full**

Full of the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)

Full of the Word (Colossians 3:16)

Full of Faith (Acts 6:8)

Full of Fruit (Philippians 1:11)

Full of Joy unspeakable and full of glory (I Peter 1:8)

### **God Has Promised**

That as the Lord fills and replenishes the dry riverbeds in the desert, so the Lord fills and replenishes the dry spirit, the tired spirit, the wearied spirit, the spent spirit of all who believe!

“I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.” (Isaiah 41:18)

“Behold, ... I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.” (Isaiah 43:19)

### III. Doubtless Fruit That's Coming (V. 5, 6)

“They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.” (v. 5, 6)

#### Why Was Israel Sowing In Tears ?

- The Assyrian Army had ravaged their land and left destruction behind.
- God had delivered His people from the enemy, but what would they eat in order to live?
- Should they turn their seed into food for today?
- Or do they plant it, in hopes for a harvest down the road?

No wonder the sowers were weeping as they sowed and scattered their seed.

#### Sowing Is the Tough Part

“They that sow in tears” (v. 5)

**Question:** Why is “sowing” the difficult task?

1. Because hard ground may need to be broken.
2. Because the soil may be rocky.
3. Because the weather may be inclement.
4. Because thorns and thistles may need removing.
5. Because it costs something to be a good sower:
 

a. Tears	f. Pain
b. Prayer	g. Selflessness
c. Sacrifice	h. Giving
d. Inconvenience	i. Faithfulness
e. Faith	j. Endurance

**Question:** What does God promise to those who sow good seed?

**Question:** What does God promise to those who sow in tears?

**Question:** What assurance is given to those who faithfully sow and sow and sow?

**Question:** What encourages you, you who are praying and witnessing and loving your unsaved friends and relatives?

#### The Guarantee From God !

“Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.” (V. 6)

In verse 1, we begin with a “dream” .

In verse 6, we end with the “sheaves” .

### **What Encouraged Israel (and us) ?**

- That all present distress is never to be viewed as if it will last forever.
- That present affliction is not the end, only a means to an end.
- That present sorrow may be grievous, but joy is promised to follow.
- That the proportion of our sorrow in sowing, will be the proportion of our joy in reaping.
- That seeds we sow by faith, will surely come again at harvest.
- That every believer who labors and toils, will be rewarded with fruit from their sowing.
- That the joy of heaven and eternal fruit, will be more than compensation for every tear sown on earth.

### **Fruit Is Promised To Those Who Sow**

“Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap” (Galatians 6:7)

“He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.” (II Corinthians 9:6)

“Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.” (Psalm 30:5)

— Conclusion —

### **What Is Our Cause For Rejoicing ?**

**We've been delivered from all captivity!**

**We are the recipients of fresh water!**

**We are guaranteed fruit from sowing good seed!**

*AMEN !*  
**Pastor Bill Kirk**