

The Seventh Song of Ascent

Scripture: Psalm 126

Date: February 20, 2021

Message: *When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those that dream. Then our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations "The Lord has done great things for them". The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced. Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Neg'eb. May those who sow in tears, reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come back home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves with them.*

Psalm 126

Ascents were the short songs that were likely sung by the pilgrims on their way to the temple on Mount Zion for feast celebrations. This is a song of joy beyond expression when the Lord brought back the captives of Zion. God set the people free of captivity. It was fulfillment of a joyful dream.

It seemed too good to be true. We imagine the words from the mouths of the pilgrims as they describe the goodness and power of God in bringing them from captivity of Zion.

Their mouths were filled with laughter. The promise of restoration was known, but the actual moment was overwhelming. It was vivid and they sang for joy. They celebrated the great things God had done for them:

- .. joy of salvation
- .. joy of Scriptures returned
- .. joy of Christian fellowship
- .. joy of network for God

Persons from other nations saw what had been done and gave credit to the great giver of all good. A plan for God to continue the restoration of transforming sadness to joy recognizes that more needs to be done.

Restoration had only begun.

Prayer: *Lord, in your mercy, thru your power, you have set us free to find joy beyond expression to live our daily lives as your servant. Amen.*