

Psalm 126 - Song of Ascents - Restoration

Restore - to bring back to a former state

Psalm 126:1-6 When the LORD brought back the captives to Zion, we were like men who dreamed. 2 Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.” 3 The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. 4 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negev. 5 Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. 6 He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him.

Who were the captives?.....Brought back from what?

They were unfaithful

1 Chronicles 9:1 All Israel was listed in the genealogies recorded in the book of the kings of Israel. The people of Judah were taken captive to Babylon because of their unfaithfulness.

They killed the king’s children, then put the king’s eyes out

2 Kings 25:6-7 [King Zedekiah] and he was captured. He was taken to the king of Babylon at Riblah, where sentence was pronounced on him. 7 They killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes. Then they put out his eyes, bound him with bronze shackles and took him to Babylon.

Took the treasures of the temple, burned the temple and broke down the wall

2 Chronicles 36:17-20 He brought up against them the king of the Babylonians, who killed their young men with the sword in the sanctuary, and spared neither young man nor young woman, old man or aged. God handed all of them over to Nebuchadnezzar. 18 He carried to Babylon all the articles from the temple of God, both large and small, and the treasures of the LORD’S temple and the treasures of the king and his officials. 19 They set fire to God’s temple and broke down the wall of Jerusalem; they burned all the palaces and destroyed everything of value there. 20 He carried into exile to Babylon the remnant, who escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power.

It lasted 70 years (since 1942 comparatively)

2 Chronicles 36:21-23 The land enjoyed its sabbath rests; all the time of its desolation it rested, until the seventy years were completed in fulfillment of the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah. 22 In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and to put it in writing: 23 “This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: “The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. Anyone of his people among you—may the LORD his God be with him, and let him go up.”

Is it possible that we have been carried away captive?

Do we need restoration? ... Do we need Revival?

Restore those who are caught in a sin

Galatians 6:1-2 Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should **restore**

him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. 2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Restore families

Malachi 4:5-6 "See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. 6 He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse."

He restores the soul

Psalm 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, **reviving** the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

Psalm 23:1-3 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, 3 he **restores** my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

He restores the spirit

Psalm 51:10-13 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. 12 **Restore** to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will **turn back** to you.

Return to our first love - the first works

Revelation 2:3-5 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. 4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. 5 Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

Signs that you might need a revival

Have you lost the ability to dream?

Have we been desensitized or scandalized by the world that we have lost this child-like faith? The impossible REMAINS impossible to you even though we serve a God who says "with God, nothing is impossible"

Think of these examples - hope was lost - yet He restored them - it was like a dream

- think of the 10 lepers when their flesh was restored (Luke 17:12)
- think of the man with the shriveled arm (Mk 3:5) and his hand was completely restored
- think of the two men born blind (Mt 9:30) - their sight was restored
- the prodigal son (Luke 15:24) he was dead and he is alive

Have you lost the ability to dream?

Maybe it is why young men see visions - old men dream dreams - because old men have gone through the struggles of life, and maybe have lost the ability to dream...and the Lord restores that with the giving of the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 3:20-21 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in

Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Is your hearts filled with laughter? Singing for joy? or has the pressure of life pushed you to depression?

They could not sing the songs of the Lord in a foreign land - but when restoration came they were filled with laughter and joy

Psalm 137:1-4 By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion. 2 There on the poplars we hung our harps, 3 for there our captors asked us for songs, our tormentors demanded songs of joy; they said, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" 4 **How can we sing the songs of the LORD while in a foreign land?**

Isaiah 51:11 Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.

2 Corinthians 7:4 I have great confidence in you; I take great pride in you. I am greatly encouraged; **in all our troubles my joy knows no bounds.**

Psalm 47:1 Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.

Nehemiah 8:10 ...for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

*Recognition that the Lord has done great things
Have we lost the sense of awe - at the person and work of
Christ? - do we recognize and acknowledge His work*

Isaiah 61:1-3 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, 2 to proclaim the year of the LORD'S favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, 3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD **for the display of his splendor.**

When Jesus restored - people were filled with awe - others sought how they might kill him

- Mt 9:8 - the paralytic walked - legs restored **they were filled with awe**
- Lk 7:16 - dead man restored to life - **they were filled with awe**

Faith and hope restored - sowing is an act of faith & hope

They planted their food - when they came back they probably brought seed, and they PLANTED IT. - this is a looking to the future with confidence that God is faithful and will provide.

1 Corinthians 9:10 Surely he says this for us, doesn't he? Yes, this was written for us, because when the plowman plows and the thresher threshes, they ought to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest.

Jeremiah 29:10-14 This is what the LORD says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. 11 For I know the plans I have for you.” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you. plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you,” declares the LORD, “and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,” declares the LORD, “and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.”

I want to dream again

I want to laugh again - to be filled with joy

I want to once more stand in awe of the greatness of the Lord

I want to have faith and hope again