

Psalm 126

"Exuberant Acknowledgment of the Return of Israel to Her Promised Land"

(A Song of Ascents.)¹

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A1 EXUBERANT ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF YAHWEH'S RETURN OF CAPTIVES FROM EXILE 126:1-3

B1 The Dream-Like Status of Returning Exiles 126:1

C1 The Occasion; {1} When the LORD brought back the captive ones of Zion,²

C2 The Simile: We were like those who dream.

B2 The Acknowledgment of the Exiles' Return 126:2-3

C1 Jewish Laughter and Exuberance 126:2a

D1 Laughing mouth: {2} Then our mouth was filled with laughter

D2 Exuberant tongue: And our tongue with joyful shouting;³

C2 International Acknowledgment 126:2b

D1 The source of the acknowledgment: Then they said among the nations,⁴

D2 The credit in the acknowledgment: "The LORD has done great things for them."

¹ Psalm 126 Superscription - Song of Ascents: See note on Psalm 120.

² Psalm 126:1 - Zion: Yahweh is the ultimate [Zionist](#)! He invented the movement! The setting of this psalm appears to be the return of exiles to Judea from the Babylonian captivity.

³ Psalm 126:2 - joyful shouting: [NASB](#)'s rendition of *rinnah*, [7440](#), occurring in 126:2, 5, and 6.

⁴ Psalm 126:2 - nations: Presently the world's nations largely oppose the return of the Jewish Diaspora to Israel, forbidding them from settling on the land Yahweh has given them. The time will come when the nations will corporately acknowledge that Yahweh is behind the Israeli return to her promised land. The coming Jewish return to Israel will dwarf the return in the 19th and 20th centuries! (See Isa. 43:5-6; Jer. 29:11-14 [this refers to the return from Babylon, but also implies a yet future great return from *all* nations]; Ezek. 36:22-36; 37:21-28; 39:25-29; Amos 9:11-15.) The greatest return to Israel the world has ever known is coming, and no European Union, no Muslims, no Palestinians, no American President, and no Israeli Knesset or Prime Minister will be able to prevent Jewish settlers from settling on the land that God has given His people in perpetuity! Yahweh will return His people to the land He has given them for His Name's sake, and no mere man will be able to stop Him!

C3 Israeli Acknowledgment 126:3

D1 Yahweh's beneficence; {3} The LORD has done great things for us;

D2 Corporate gladness: We are glad.

A2 PRAYER FOR THE RETURN OF MORE EXILES 126:4

B1 Plea: {4} Restore our captivity, O LORD,

B2 Metaphor: As the streams in the South.⁵

A3 FAITH IN THE LONG-TERM SUCCESS OF ISRAELI REPATRIATION 126:5-6

B1 The Contrast of Sowing and Reaping 126:5

C1 Tearful Sowing: {5} Those who sow in tears

C2 Exuberant Harvest: shall reap with joyful shouting.⁶

B2 The Expansion of Sowing and Reaping 126:6

C1 Tearful Sowing: {6} He who goes to and fro weeping, carrying *his* bag of seed,

C2 Exuberant Harvest: Shall indeed come again with a shout of joy, bringing his sheaves *with him*.

Expanded Analysis of Psalm 126

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⁵ Psalm 126:4 - South: [5045](#) *negeb* [or *Negev*]; from an unused root mean. to be parched; the south (from its drought); spec. the Negeb or southern district of Judah, occasionally, Egypt (as south to Pal.)" (*Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*)

⁶ Psalm 126:5 - reap with joyful shouting: "The efforts of the exiles to reestablish the nation amid difficulties will someday come to fruition like a harvest, a principle applicable to Christian work as well." (*Ryrie Study Bible* note.) According to [Constable](#),

The streams in the south of Israel, the Negev, dry up in the parched summer months but become raging torrents during the rainy season. The psalmist used these streams as a figure of what the highways from Babylon could become with God's further blessing. They could become flooded with travelers moving back into the land that God wanted His chosen people to occupy.