



PILGRIM SONGS:

✠ THE PSALMS OF ASCENT ✠



A Song of Ascents: Psalm 126

Psalm 126:1–6

[1] When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

[2] Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then they said among the nations,

“The LORD has done great things for them.”

[3] The LORD has done great things for us;
we are glad. (ESV)



A Song of Ascents: Psalm 126

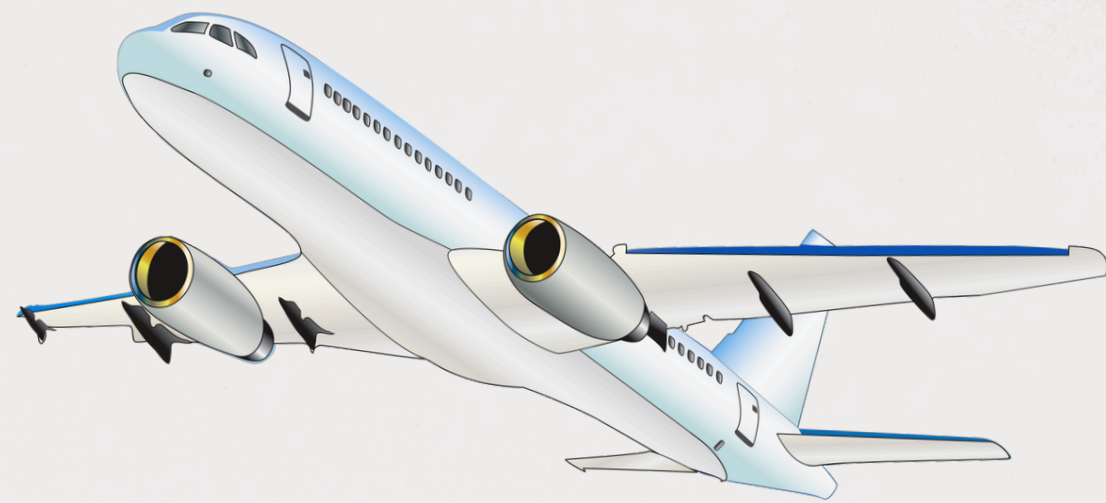
Psalm 126:1–6

[4] Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like streams in the Negeb!

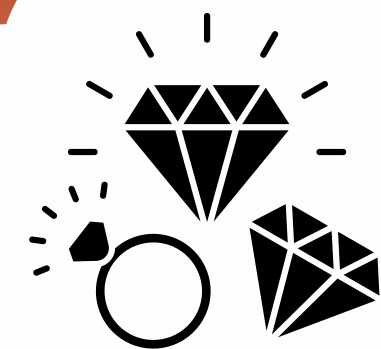
[5] Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy!

[6] He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him. (ESV)





IF I HAD \$1,000,000 I WOULD...



A Song of Ascents: Psalm 126

What we are thinking of and experiencing is tied to:

FULFILLMENT

PEACE

SECURITY

GENEROSITY



A Song of Ascents: Psalm 126

This Psalm is believed to have been written after a return from an exile or captivity and would have been a time of rebuilding especially for an agrarian culture

SO IN THIS PSALM THE WRITER REMINDS THEM OF GODS PAST BLESSINGS WHEN THEY WERE LIKE THOSE LIVING THE DREAM:

FULFILLED

PEACEFUL

SECURE

JOY AND LAUGHTER AND GENEROSITY ABOUND

So much so that it impacted those around that could see the Lords blessing



A Song of Ascents: Psalm 126

PAST

[1] When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

[2] Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;

then they said among the nations,

“The LORD has done great things for them.”

[3] The LORD has done great things for us;
we are glad.

PRESENT GRATITUDE



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PRESENT NEED

[4] **Restore** our fortunes, O LORD,
like streams in the Negeb!

[5] Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy!

[6] He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him.

FUTURE



NEGEV DESERT REGION



NEGEB AFTER RAINY SEASON



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Vs 5-6 sowing seed sacrificially in the hopes of a good harvest

Why with tears? B/c they could use that seed for immediate need to put food on the table now or they sacrifice now in hope that blessing will more than sustain them for the future

Wheat averages 4 months and then another 4 months and so on. Likely a year before they are eating non sacrificial portions. But what a Joy when there is relief and plenty. (In every way imaginable life is full)



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- What we continually see in scripture is that God uses the reality of sowing and reaping to show the importance of **trusting him**
 - Restored —} past promises fulfilled vs 1-3
 - Restore —} presently trusting in sacrificially sowing vs 4
 - Shall Restore —} confidently trusting with joy vs 5-6

IT IS IN THE **WAITING** where God is preparing us to receive his blessing. It shapes our hearts towards gratitude and generosity not entitlement and pride.



A Song of Ascents: Psalm 126

*So Grace Table, what does it look like for us
to sow with tears and reap with joy?*



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Galatians 6:7–10

[7] Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. [8] For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. [9] And let us not grow weary of doing good, **for in due season** we will reap, if we do not give up. [10] So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. (ESV)



A Song of Ascents: Psalm 126

Sowing in the flesh = CORRUPTION

Sowing in the spirit = ETERNAL LIFE



A Song of Ascents: Psalm 126

So what does sowing sacrificially in the spirit look like for us?

Paul lays it out right before what we just read in Galatians 5

Galatians 5:19–21

[19] Now the *works of the flesh* are evident: **sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, [20] idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, [21] envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these.** I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (ESV)



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So what does sowing sacrificially in the spirit look like for us?

Galatians 5:22–25

[22] But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,** [23] **gentleness, self-control**; against such things there is no law. [24] And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. [25] If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. (ESV)

we don't plant apple seeds and expect to pick pears
WE DON'T SOW IN THE FLESH & EXPECT TO REAP HOLINESS



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- *It's important to note that when this song was written and crops needed to be planted, **everyone didn't plant the same crop**. What good would that be? Each planted things that would benefit the whole all were sacrificing, and trusting on the Lord to come through for his people.*
- *It's the same with us as we are in community together, investing in the fruit of the spirit there are aspects of this that come more natural to some than others. **As we live in community together, we are growing in wholeness; painting a more accurate picture of what the kingdom of God is like.***



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- *Mason King posed this question; “In what ways are we mocking God by sewing into the flesh and expecting to reap holiness?”*
- *In other words, saying that we want to live holy lives, but never doing the actual hard work and sacrificial work of sewing into the fruit of the spirit.*



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THE LORD HAS DONE GREAT THINGS FOR US;
WE ARE GLAD.





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