

Evening Sermon Outline – November 21, 2021

“Like those who dream...” Psalm 126

- I. *God often allows difficulty, pain, and long dark seemingly fruitless times in our life, we see that in this Psalm with the words –*

1. *Captivity - :1 & :4 –*

This is a reference to the Israelite’s captivity in Babylon, and yet it could apply to captivity in Egypt or to our captivity to sin -

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. John 8:34 (NKJV)

- A. *The Jews captivity in Babylon was a deserved captivity, because they had rebelled against God / they had chosen false gods –*

¹⁵ Then all the men who knew that their wives had burned incense to other gods, with all the women who stood by, a great multitude, and all the people who dwell in the land of Egypt, in Pathros, answered Jeremiah, saying: ¹⁶ “As for the word that you have spoken to us in the name of the LORD, we will not listen to you!” ¹⁷ But we will certainly do whatever has gone out of our own mouth, to burn incense to the queen of heaven and pour out drink offerings to her, as we have done, we and our fathers, our kings and our princes, in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem.... Jeremiah 44:15–17 A (NKJV)

- B. *Because of their own sins, or the mother or father’s sin they were captive in Babylon, in such captivity we must confess our sins –*

Daniel was one of the captives in Babylon, he was a captive as a child, as an old man, even after Babylon is defeated, he PRAYS, confessing his and Israel’s sins -

⁹ In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the lineage of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans—² in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the LORD through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. ³ Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. ⁴ And I prayed to the LORD my God, and made confession, and said, “O Lord,

great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, ⁵ we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments. ⁶ Neither have we heeded Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings and our princes, to our fathers and all the people of the land. ⁷ O Lord, righteousness *belongs* to You, but to us shame of face, as *it is* this day—to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those near and those far off in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of the unfaithfulness which they have committed against You. ⁸ “O Lord, to us *belongs* shame of face, to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, because we have sinned against You. ⁹ To the Lord our God *belong* mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him. ¹⁰ We have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in His laws, which He set before us by His servants the prophets. ¹¹ Yes, all Israel has transgressed Your law, and has departed so as not to obey Your voice; therefore the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against Him. Daniel 9:1–11 (NKJV)

- C. *Daniel knew seventy years were ordained for Israel’s captivity, he knew the time of relief was near, yet we often do not know when the light at the end of the tunnel will shine -*

2. *The other key word here is “tears” which is echoed in the word “weeping” - :5 & :6*

⁵ Those who sow in tears Shall reap in joy. ⁶ He who continually goes forth weeping, Bearing seed for sowing, Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, Bringing his sheaves *with him*. Psalm 126:5-6

- A. *Implied in these verses is spiritual sorrow –*

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. Matthew 5:3–4 (NKJV)

- B. *For the believer, weeping, sorrow, difficulty, however seemingly LONG is always temporary –*

⁵ For His anger *is but for a moment*, His favor *is for life*; Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning. Psalm 30:5 (NKJV)

- C. *Our sorrow is for SIN, for ours and others –*

¹³⁶ Rivers of water run down from my eyes, Because *men* do not keep Your law. Psalm 119:136 (NKJV)

3. *Jesus is our Savior from sin, He breaks our captivity to it –*

²¹ And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21 (NKJV)

³⁶ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed. John 8:36 (NKJV)

Even, and especially, as believers we yearn for freedom from sin, in Romans 7, we read of the Apostle Paul’s struggle with what I call the law of depravity –

²¹ I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. ²² For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.

²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴ O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! Romans 7:21-25 A (NKJV)

II. Gaining what we desire, our freedom, beating the law of depravity is our great dream come true –

A Song of Ascents.

1. *Know that we ascend even through darkness, even when we seem not to be gaining ground, if we are PRAYING, God is hearing!*
2. *The longer, more fervently, we pray the more glorious, joyful the ANSWER -*

¹ When the LORD brought back the captivity of Zion, We were like those who dream. ² Then our mouth was filled with laughter, And our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.” ³The LORD has done great things for us, And we are glad. Psalm 126:1-3 (NKJV)

- A. It is why Abraham and Sarah name their LONG prayed for son, “Isaac” meaning laughter –*
- B. It is a dream come true – Psalm 126:1 (NKJV)*
- C. It is a mouth FULL – Psalm 126:2 A (NKJV)*
- D. It is a singing, song writing THING - Psalm 126:2 B (NKJV)*
- E. It is an OBVOIUS to everyone thing - Psalm 126:2 C - :3 A (NKJV)*
- F. It is a “glad” thing -*

In these days of confused situations In this night of a restless remorse
When the heart and the soul of a nation Lay wounded and cold as a corpse
From the grave of the innocent Adam Comes a song bringing joy to the sad
Oh, your cry has been heard and the ransom Has been paid up in full, be ye glad
Oh, be ye glad Oh, be ye glad Every debt that you’ve ever had Has been paid up in full by the grace of the Lord
Be ye glad, be ye glad, be ye glad

Now from your dungeon a rumor is stirring Though you’ve heard it again and again
Now but this time your cell keys are turning And outside there are faces of friends
Though your body lay weary from wasting And your eyes show the sorrow they had
Oh the love that your heart is now tasting Has opened the gate be ye glad
Oh, be ye glad Oh, be ye glad Every debt that you ever had Has been paid up in full
By the grace of the Lord Be ye glad, be ye glad, be ye glad

So be like lights On the rim of the water Giving hope in a storm sea of night
Be a refuge amidst the slaughter Of these fugitives in their flight For you are timeless and part of a puzzle
You are winsome and young as a lad And there is no disease or no struggle That can pull you from God, be ye glad ...
Oh, be ye glad Oh, be ye glad Every debt that you ever had Has been paid up in full
By the grace of the Lord Be ye glad, be ye glad, be ye glad Oh, be ye glad Oh, be ye glad
Be ye glad, be ye glad, be ye glad

Songwriter: Michael K Blanchard

III. There is fruit in righteous labor and prayer -

⁴ Bring back our captivity, O LORD, As the streams in the South. ⁵ Those who sow in tears Shall reap in joy. ⁶ He who continually goes forth weeping, Bearing seed for sowing, Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, Bringing his sheaves with him. Psalm 126:4-6 (NKJV)

1. *Keep praying – however long you have already prayed ...*
2. *Keep sowing to the Spirit – Galatians 6:7-10*

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