

# WHAT SONG IS IN YOUR HEART?

Psalm 126

Lord Restore \_\_\_\_\_!

For a 1000 years Europe sat in a spiritual darkness known as the Dark Ages. The Scriptures were closed and when that happens the world grows darker and darker.

But God always has His messengers that will come in His time to reignite a holy fire within the world. (**revival**)

During the Dark Ages men such as Martin Luther and John Calvin were mightily used by God to extinguish the darkness and bring back the light of the Gospel of grace to a weary land.

The watchword, the rallying cry of the Reformation, were the Latin words, “**Sola Scriptura**” which translated means “Scripture only!”

The writer of **Psalm 126** could look at you today and say, “I know of your pain”.

We are in the 8th week of our Sermon Series “*What Song Is In Your Heart*” looking at **Psalm 120 -135** which are known as the “Psalms Of The Ascent”.

We have come to Psalm 126 with a sermon entitled, “Lord Restore \_\_\_\_\_!”

Here is the backdrop for this Psalm:

- As Israel entered the Promised Land, God warned them:
  - **Joshua 1:7**
  - **Joshua 1:18**
- The 1<sup>st</sup> generation did well, the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation did well also, but the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation began to embrace the idols of the godless nations.
- God puts His people in exile to the Babylonians, but out of His love for them there is a time limit put on the time of exile, 70 years (Prophesied by those like Isaiah / Jeremiah). **Jeremiah 29:14**
- Then in 537 B.C. King Cyrus decreed that the captives could return to their land.

- Can you imagine how the Jews felt after 70 years of exile to be able to return home!!!!
- The Jews gathered their few pitiful belongings and prepared to return to their homeland. (how different than when God's people left Egypt)

Psalm 126 is a request of God to restore 3 things:

- Their hope.
- Their fortunes.
- Their blessings.

### Verses 1-3 – Their Hope Has Been Restored!

- “*When the Lord brought back the captive ones of Zion*”, notice that the Jews knew who had brought about their release, not King Cyrus but rather their God!
  - **Proverbs 21:1**
- Their:
  - Mouths were filled with laughter!
  - Tongues were joyful shouting!
  - See when we act like God's people then others begin to see the difference He has made in our lives then that opens the door for us to share Christ with them.

### Verse #4 – They Ask The Lord To Restore Their Fortunes

- The phrase “restore again our captivity” can also be translated “restore our fortunes”.
- “*Restore our fortunes, Lord, as streams renew the desert.*” (New Living Translation)
  - A desert dry and dusty can be restored by a stream so can God restore our fortunes.
- Imagine for a second what they had left in the Promised Land, homes, fields, wells, vineyards, crops...” it had all be destroyed by the invading armies, now the Jews ask their God to restore everything that has been taken away.
  - **Leviticus 26:4**

### Verses 5-6 – They Ask The Lord To Restore Their Blessings.

- The Jew had a decision to make, take the seeds he had and plant them or take the seeds and feed his family.
- **Ezekiel 34:26** (showers of blessings)

- **II Chronicles 7:14** (...will heal their land)
- God's people must pray for His blessings and then prepare for them to come.
  - Think of a farmer who prays for a great harvest but never works the soil, never plants the seeds...then there will be no harvest.
  - So many of us pray for God's blessings but never do our part to get ready for them.
  - **James 2:26** "*Faith without works is dead*".
  - **Galatians 6:9** "*Let us not grow weary in well doing for in due season we shall reap if we faint not.*"

Restored:

- Psalm 51:12 (the joy of your salvation)
- Jeremiah 30:17 (restore your health)
- Joel 2:25 (restore what the locust have eaten away)