Psalms Chapter 126 - Review

In chapter 126 we learned this is the *first* song in the *third* 'group' in this series of 'Song of Degrees', and that it was written by Hezekiah. And that's why the subject/title was again "***Distress***" (as it was in Psalms 120 and 123). And Hezekiah began this song by speaking of how the Lord (YHVH) 'turned again' (i.e. brought back) the 'captivity' (return, of property) of 'Zion'. And, from searching the Scriptures (2 Kings 18-19, 2 Chron 20), we learned that the 'captivity' Hezekiah was referring to was actually when the Assryians (after they had taken the northern ten tribes of Israel captive) invaded the *southern kingdom of Judah* and took all of the fenced cities *except* for Jerusalem. So, *all* of the southern kingdom of Judah *was* taken 'captive' by the Assyrians *because* they surrendered their cities. And, while the Assryians didn't remove them out of their lands (as they did the northern tribes), they still *controlled* all the fenced cities, except for Jerusalem (because Hezekiah, and the army, *refused* to surrender). And the Lord (YHVH) 'turned again' (brought back) their 'captivity' (returned their property to their control) when He sent His 'Angel' to the Assryians military camp and *killed off* 165,000 of them *in just one night*! This caused the Assyrian army to *flee* **all** of the southern kingdom of Judah, *not just* Jerusalem. So, just as the Assryians woke one morning – only to find a bunch of dead corpses (165,000 which the 'Angel of the Lord' had killed) – so too did those in the southern kingdom wake to find the Assryians *fleeing*! And that's why Hezekiah wrote that it seemed 'like a dream' to them because of *how amazed* they (those in the southern kingdom of Judah) were to see the Assyrians leaving, and *so quickly*. And, it also likely seemed like a 'dream come true' to them as well!

So naturally, after the Assryians *fled* the southern kingdom of Judah *so quickly*, the people were quite elated. And that's why Hezekiah wrote that, when they realized the Assryians had 'high tailed it' out of their cities (*and* nation), they shouted, and laughed, with *great* joy. And they were, naturally, also very glad (*blithe* and *gleeful*). And they *acknowledged* that *it was* God Almighty (Yehovah, i.e. YHVH) who had *caused* that to happen! And we also learned that this truly is a wonderful example (type, 1 Cor 10:11) of what it'll be like when Jesus Christ returns. For, *after* Satan, and his fallen angels, take the world captive (to deception and the wicked 'beast' governing system) *then* Jesus Christ *will* return '*as a thief*' in the night (1 Thess 5:2; 2 Peter 3:10; Rev 3:3; Rev 16:15) - which simply means He will come *quickly* and He'll *surprise everyone* who has not been *faithfully* 'watching' for the return of the *true* Jesus Christ (Matt 24:42-44, 25:13-14; Mark 13:33-37; Luke 12:35-40, 21:34-36; 1 Thess 5:1-9). And it'll be a surprise to many *because* they though the true Christ (who is really Satan) *had already come*!

And then we saw Hezekiah ask that the Lord (YHVH) to *bring back their former state of prosperity*. And then he likened the prosperity he hoped for to how the dry riverbeds of Negeb were flooded during the rainy season. So, just as the Lord (YHVH) brings sudden life-giving waters to the arid desert of Negeb, so too did Hezekiah ask Him to bring back their *former state* of prosperity. And, as we've learned, the Lord (YHVH) **did** indeed do this (2 Chron 32:22-23).

But, *prophetically* speaking, the Lord (YHVH) *will also* do so at the return of Jesus Christ, as Isa 61:2-11 speaks of. And then Hezekiah made a statement that (at first glance) seemed odd, i.e. "*They that sow in tears shall reap in joy*". But, when we considered how Hezekiah wept to the Lord (YHVH) during this time period (to heal him of his sickness *and* to save Jerusalem, 2 Kings 20:3; Isa 38:1-3), it became clear that he was simply explaining his own life experience, which truly is a 'timeless truth' to all who love, serve and obey the Lord (YHVH). For, because of his '*good* fruits' (works), and because of his *righteous* tears, Hezekiah did eventually 'reap in joy' when the Lord (YHVH) healed him of his sickness *and* when the Lord (YHVH) nearly annihilated the Assyrian army (in just one night), which caused them to *flee back* to Assyria – leaving Jerusalem, and all of the southern kingdom of Judah – *free from* their oppressions. And we also learned that (yet again) this is an *excellent* type for us today too. For, as Jesus said, "***Blessed** are ye that **weep now**: for ye **shall** laugh*" (Luke 6:21). And in Matt 5:4, Jesus also said that, "***Blessed** are they that **mourn**: for they **shall** be comforted*". And what we mourn over, and weep for now, is *all the evil* that is going on in the world. And that will be *especially* so during the 'great tribulation' (Mth 24:21) when we see so many people (even Christians) whoring after (i.e. worshiping) the *false*-Christ (the 'antichrist', *who is Satan*) as though he were our *true* Savior. So, just as Hezekiah wept so many years ago, those who weep for the wickedness coming upon the earth will indeed 'reap in joy' when the *true* Jesus Christ returns to the earth and makes *all things right*.

And then Hezekiah also pointed out a very similar point, which is how those who sorrowfully (even weeping) carry seed to the field to sow, will not be empty handed come harvest season. For even though it is *a lot of* work to sow physical seeds (crops or a garden) – and many times it's not fun to do – it is *well worth the effort* when we get to reap the precious fruit of our labor. And we learned there's a very important spiritual point to this as well. For, while we often feel like weeping when we try to plant 'seeds' of truth with others (because they reject the truth and even mock us at times), with time, our efforts in planting (sowing seeds of truth) *will* 'bear fruit', *spiritually* speaking. So, if we don't give up *trying* to plant seeds of truth (when the opportunities arise), we *will* indeed (with time) reap the blessings of seeing others come to the truth, even if it is only in the Millennium. And we also learned that *the way we live our life*, and *the way we speak*, is truly one of the *best* ways to 'plant seeds of truth' (spiritually). For setting forth a *good example* of what living our life, *according to* God's Word, can do for a person (the blessings, peace of mind, and joy God's Word gives us) is often a *much more powerful* 'seed' of truth than *many* words. And, we should also remember that our Heavenly Father *sees* us trying to 'plant' seeds *and* how grieved we are when people reject it (*and* mock us because of our faith in Jesus Christ and God's Word). And it pleases Him *very* much to see us earnestly trying to 'sow seeds' of *truth*! So, if we just 'stick with' planting (with discernment and wisdom) the precious 'seeds' (along with using our God-given gifts the best we can), the Lord (YHVH) *will* bless our efforts, and *will* give us great joy for doing our best to serve Him *faithfully*, just as He did for Hezekiah (Isa 37:30, 2 Chron 32:22-23) …

*7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, **that** shall he also reap.*
*8 For he that soweth to his flesh **shall of the flesh reap corruption**; but he that soweth to the Spirit **shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting**.*
*9 And **let us not be weary in well doing**: **for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.***
10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.
Gal 6:7-10

So, *keep on* 'sowing' *good* seeds of truth! For, no matter hard (or saddening) it might seem *now*, we will reap *in due season* **IF we don't give up**!

AMEN.