

# The Psalm Project

Discovering the Spiritual World through the Psalms

Psalm 126

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# The Goal of this project:

This research project will examine the 150 psalms for the spiritual awareness each Psalm offers. Each Psalm will be examined by its language and the commentary of the Sages. The spiritual awareness analysis will be done in alignment with Ari's definition of the Tree of life, the Book of Creation, and the Zohar. Each verse of the Psalm will be rewritten using the intent of the language and spiritual commentary to convey its spiritual lesson.

#### The Main Resources:

The Zohar

The Book of Creation

Ari's writing on the Tree of Life and the Ten Sefirot

The Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament

Samson Hirsch's commentary on the Psalms

Tehillim – Psalms – A new translation with a commentary anthologized from the Talmudic and rabbinic sources

Accordance Bible Software

#### Psalm 126

#### New American Standard

Psa. 126:0 A Song of Ascents.

**Psa. 126:1** When the LORD "brought back <sup>1</sup>the captive ones of Zion,

We were <sup>b</sup>like those who dream.

Then our "mouth was filled with laughter

And our <sup>b</sup>tongue with joyful shouting;

Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has 'done great things for them."

The LORD has done great things for us;

We are <sup>a</sup>glad.

**Psa. 126:4** Restore our captivity, O LORD,

As the <sup>1</sup>astreams in the <sup>2</sup>South.

- Those who sow in "tears shall reap with "joyful shouting.
- He who goes to and fro weeping, carrying his bag of seed,

Shall indeed come again with a shout of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

#### Hebrew

שיר הַפַּזְעַלְוֹת בְּשֵׁוּב יֻהְּדְה אָת־שִׁיבַת צִיּוֹן הְיִינוּ כְּחֹלְמִים: י אָז יִפְּלֵא שְּחוֹּלְ פִּינוּ וּלְשׁוֹנֵנוּ רְּנָה אָז יאִמְרוּ בַּגּוֹיֶם הִגְּדִּיל יְהוָה לַעֲשִׂוֹת עִם־אֵּלֶּה: יּ הִגְּדִּיל יֲהוָה לַעֲשִׂוֹת עִפְּנוּ הָיִינוּ שְׁבוּתֵנוּ [שְׁבִיתְנוּ] שוּבְה יֻהוָה אָת־שְׁבוּתֵנוּ [שְׁבִיתְנוּ] בּוְצָבִר יְהוֹיְ הַלְּוֹך יֵלֵך וּבְלה נִשֵׂא מָשֶׁךְ־הַזְּרֵע בְּאֹ־יִבְוֹא בְּרִנָּה נִשֵּׁא מֵשֶׁךְ־הַזְּרֵע בְּאֹ־יִבְוֹא בְּרָנָּה נִשֵּׁא מֵשֶׁךְ־הַזְּרֵע בְּאֹ־יִבְוֹא

## References

## Psalm 126:1

<sup>1</sup>Or those who returned to <sup>a</sup>Ps 85:1; Jer 29:14; Hos 6:11 <sup>b</sup>Acts 12:9

## Psalm 126:2

<sup>a</sup>Job 8:21 <sup>b</sup>Ps 51:14; Is 35:6 <sup>c</sup>1 Sam 12:24; Ps 71:19; Luke 1:49

## Psalm 126:3

<sup>a</sup>Is 25:9; Zeph 3:14

# Psalm 126:4

<sup>1</sup>Lit stream-beds <sup>2</sup>Heb Negev <sup>4</sup>Is 35:6; 43:19

# Psalm 126:5

<sup>a</sup>Ps 80:5; Jer 31:9, 16; Lam 1:2 <sup>b</sup>Is 35:10; 51:11; 61:7; Gal 6:9

## Targum

**Psa. 126:1** A song that was uttered on the ascents of the abyss. When the LORD makes the exiles of Zion return, we were like the sick who were healed. <sup>2</sup> Then will our mouths be full of laughter, and our tongue with praise; then will they say among the Gentiles, "The LORD has done great good to these." <sup>3</sup> The LORD has done great good to us; we are joyful. <sup>4</sup> O LORD, make our exiles return, like a land that is made habitable when fountains of water flow during drought. <sup>5</sup> Those who sow with tears will harvest with praise. <sup>6</sup> He will surely go with weeping; the ox that bears a load of seed will surely come with praise, when he bears his sheaves and grazes on the young growth from the furrow.

#### **Spiritual Awareness**

#### Introduction

This is a Psalm of Ascents that describes the highest level of Ascents. The final redemption will appear to be a dream, because the wonders which will accompany it will exceed Israel's wildest expectations. David wrote the psalm as a prophecy of what was to occur long after his death.

#### Notes on the Psalm

Verse one asks the LORD when the people in Exile will return to Mount Zion. When the people returned to Jerusalem, they rebuilt the city and a second Temple to the LORD. Today, this Psalm could apply to any individual. It is easy for a person to become disconnected from the LORD. This can occur when a person's expectations of what the LORD will provide exceeds what can happen. The "dark night of the soul" is an expression used to indicate a separation from the LORD. This Psalm can say that the LORD brought Israel back from Exile in Babylon (the dark place) back to Jerusalem and His presence. The LORD awaits for all souls who have left him to return.

Appendix







