

***From Tears to
Laughter and Joy***

Psalm 126

*Meditating &
Praying the
Psalms*

A close-up photograph of a person's hands resting on an open Bible. The hands are positioned in a prayerful or meditative gesture, with fingers slightly curled. The Bible is open, and the text is visible on the pages. The lighting is soft and focused on the hands and the book. The background is dark and out of focus.



Praying Our Help in Pandemic

***From Tears to Song
of Laughter and Joy***

When God Dwells with us

*Joy is Characteristic of
Christian Pilgrimage.*

*A Consequence not
A Requirement.*

Joy is what God gives not what we work up



SONGS

FOR THE

JOURNEY

The Psalms of Ascents

Psalm 120-134

Psalm 126

***From Tears to
Laughter & Joy***

Stepping Stones to God's Heart

Songs for our Life and Journey towards God

Psalm 126 - A Psalm of Joy

¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed.

² Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." ³ The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

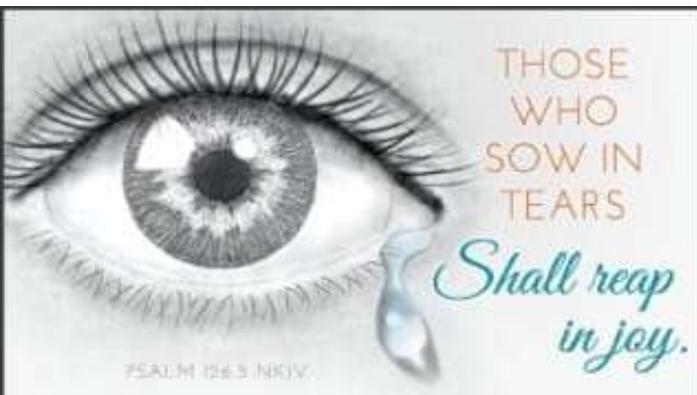
⁴ Restore our fortunes, LORD, like streams in the Negev. ⁵ Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. ⁶ Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.



Psalm 126

From Tears to Laughter and Joy

- **V1-2 Praise from the Past – Past Joy**
- **V3-5 Prayer in the Presence – Present Joy**
- **V6 Prophecy for the Future – Future Joy**



Praise from the Past

¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed. ² Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy.

Past Joy Over Restoration

Work of God in their lives

A Dream! A Miracle!

**God's Abundance
and Faithfulness**



The Return from Exile

Isaiah 45:13

I will raise up Cyrus in my righteousness:

I will make all his ways straight.

He will rebuild my city and set my exiles free, but not for a price or reward, says the LORD Almighty.'

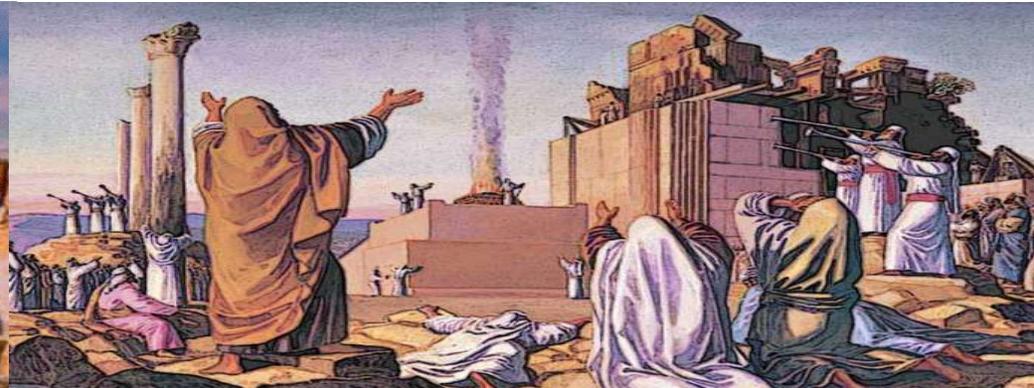


Ezra 1:1-3 Rebuilding the Temple

'This is what Cyrus king of Persia says:

The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah.

Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the LORD, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them.



A Great Day of Testimony by Others

*Then it was said
among the nations,
“The LORD has done
great things for them.”*

**People around
them can see it**



Joy in the Present
“O How Happy We Are!”

³ The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

***Real Laughter of Joy
from deep within the souls***

Rejoice!



V4-5 Prayer in the Present

*⁴ Restore our fortunes, LORD,
like streams in the Negev.*

*⁵ Those who sow with tears will
reap with songs of joy.*

Hopeful Expectant Prayer

*The Memory of Past Joy
Experience of the Present Joy
Built up their faith*



Two Images of Joyful Expectation

Streams in the Negev

Negev means Dry, arid land

A lifeless place!

***Sudden Undeserved Blessing
(Miracles)***

***Reaping for Those Sowing Tears
Through years of working
and waiting (Providence)***



V6 Prophecy for the Future

*Those who go out weeping,
carrying seed to sow, will return
with songs of joy, carrying
sheaves with them.*

Would the Lord do it again?

Yes He would!

Future Joy

Restore back to Prosperity

“O how happy we will be!”



**Joy is Dependent On
The Amazing God We Know**

***The memory of past joy
The experience of the present joy
Flows over into future Joy.***

**His ways are dependable,
His promises sure.**



Testing Times in Pandemic

**Come to God in Prayer
with Hopeful Expectation**



Remember Past Joy **Our Ebenezer**



On Mt Moriah The Lord Provides



**Be Joyful
in the Present**

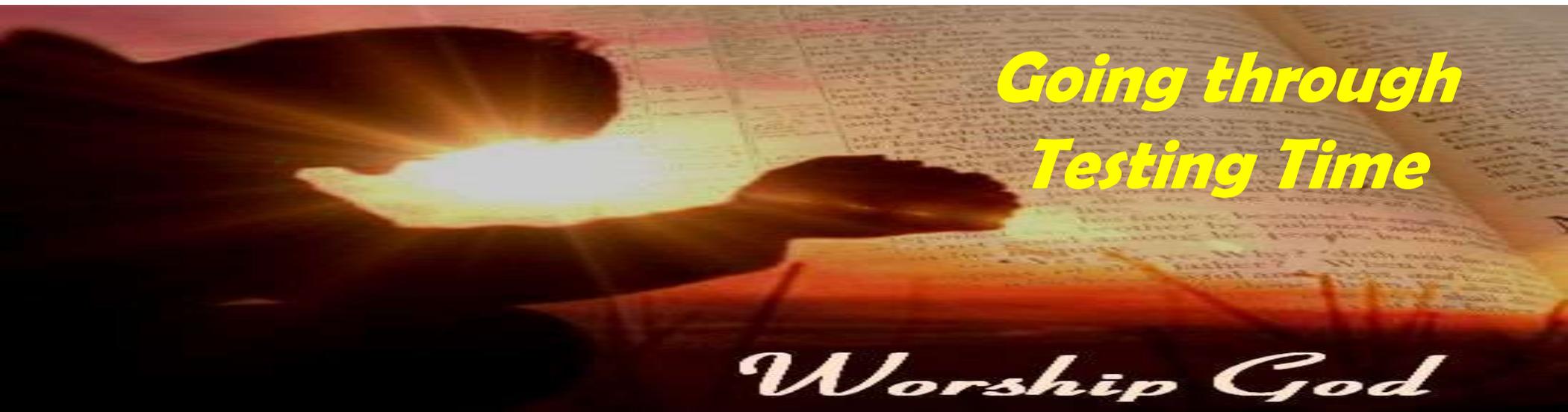
**We are to work in the
Pandemic**

***For joy comes not with the
weeping but of the sowing!***



Rest Assured! Tomorrow
We will Sing Songs of Joy

***He turns our Mess into a Message,
Test into Testimony,
Sorrows into Laughter.***



***Going through
Testing Time***

Worship God

**The day when the sun
will shine again will be here**

***Be candid in our fears,
Be secure in our trust in the Lord.***

***Live and worship God
with real laughter from the heart of joy***

