

WARD CHAPEL / CAIN - GRANT A.M.E.
CHURCH, KANSAS CITY, MO

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BIBLE LESSON

YEAR FOUR: KINGDOMTIDE (ORDINARY TIME)

LESSON #1: PSALM 126 (NEW LIVING TRANSLATION)

¹ When the LORD brought back his exiles to Jerusalem, it was like a dream! ² We were filled with laughter, and we sang for joy. And the other nations said, "What amazing things the LORD has done for them." ³ Yes, the LORD has done amazing things for us!

What joy! ⁴ Restore our fortunes, LORD, as streams renew the desert. ⁵ Those who plant in tears will harvest with shouts of joy. ⁶ They weep as they go to plant their seed, but they sing as they return with the harvest.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE TEXT?

"Psalms 120 through 134 are liturgical psalms, probably sung by the people of Israel as they journeyed to Jerusalem for the three annual feasts which the Law established as national festivals."ⁱ As the header notes this is "A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem." "Those that had returned out of captivity are here called on to be thankful (vv. 1-3). Those that were yet remaining in captivity are here prayed for (vs. 4) and encouraged (vv 5-6)."ⁱⁱ

WISDOM FROM BISHOP CLEMENT W. FUGH

This is to be a **Season of Growth**. There's to be a concentration on the local church.
Themes: Care of the Local Congregation; Edifice; Community; Mission; Advocate for something or someone; "Latch onto a Cause that has eternity in it and let it lift you."
(The late Bishop Howard Thomas Primm)



- "The Fifth Episcopal District of the A.M.E. Church has committed this Quadrennial (2016- 2020) to walk in (not "into," but "in") our destiny as the **Holy Nation** that the Lord has ordained us to be."
- "Throughout our journey, we will strive *'to let our heaven taught conduct show that we are commissioned from above.'* (Go forth Ye Heralds in My Name!)"

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDERⁱⁱⁱ

1. What mood does, "it was like a dream" (vs. 1) capture?
2. What verses show the exiles had mixed feelings and on what do they agree?
3. What problems do the people in our text still face (vv. 4-6)?
4. Has God ever done something so great you had to pinch yourself to see if you were dreaming?
5. How does God tend to answer your prayers: A Flash flood or a long growing season?

SOMETHING TO REMEMBER

“Tears in Scripture (vv. 5-6) play a unique role in spiritual breakthrough, Here we discover that the planting of seeds accompanied by a spirit of brokenness will not only bring a spiritual harvest of results, but will leave the sower with a spirit of rejoicing in the process.”^{iv}

ⁱ Cf. *Hayford's Bible Handbook*, Jack W. Hayford, General Editor (c. 1995)

ⁱⁱ cf. *What does Every Bible Chapter Say... The Ultimate Bible Outline/Theme Book*, John Hunt, Editor (c. 2011)

ⁱⁱⁱ Questions gleaned from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (c. 1998 Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI), p. 858

^{iv} *Hayford*, *ibid.*, p. 772