

Great Things; Psalm 126:1-3

- I. A Song of Ascents
 - a. A special set of Psalms (120-134) grouped together
 - i. Four attributed to King David (122, 124, 131, and 133)
 - ii. One attributed to King Solomon (127)
 - iii. Ten are anonymous (126 being one of those ten)
 - b. Jerusalem is set on a hill
 - i. You were always going “up to Jerusalem” (even if you were traveling down the Jordan from Capernaum)
 - ii. Jews traveling to Jerusalem for one of the three main annual Jewish festivals would sing these Psalms as they made the “ascent” on the uphill road to Jerusalem
 - iii. Priests would sing these songs as they ascended the temple steps
 - iv. Each of these Psalms has a different theme
 1. Psalm 120: God’s presence during distress
 2. Psalm 121: Joyful praise to the Lord
 3. Psalm 122: Prayer for Jerusalem
 4. Psalm 123: Patience for God’s mercy
 5. Psalm 124: Help comes from the Lord
 6. Psalm 125: Prayer for God’s Blessing upon His people
 - 7. Psalm 126: The Lord has done great things**
 8. Psalm 127: God’s blessing on man’s efforts
 9. Psalm 128: Joy for those who follow God’s ways
 10. Psalm 129: A cry for help to the Lord
 11. Psalm 130: A prayer of repentance
 12. Psalm 131: Surrender as a child to the Lord
 13. Psalm 132: God’s sovereign plan for His people
 14. Psalm 133: Praise of brotherly fellowship and unity
 15. Psalm 134: Praise to God His temple
 - v. I listed them all because these are the very words of God meant to bring us encouragement and steadfast faith during trying times
 - c. Psalm 126:3 (ESV) ³ The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.
- II. The Exodus
 - a. Egypt
 - i. Wealthy and powerful
 - ii. Made slaves of the Israelites
 - b. God sent Moses to lead His people out of captivity (slavery)
 - i. Pharaoh does not want to let the Israelites go
 - ii. God brings the plagues on Egypt
 - c. The Ipuwer Papyrus
 - i. Found in 1828 near Memphis in Saqqara
 - ii. It describes chaos caused by disasters, slaves that gained freedom, rich who became poor
 - iii. There is no other papyrus like this

- iv. 2:5-6; "Plague is throughout the land. Blood is everywhere"
- v. 2:10; "The river is blood"
- vi. Exodus 7:20 (ESV) ²⁰ Moses and Aaron did as the LORD commanded. In the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants he lifted up the staff and struck the water in the Nile, and all the water in the Nile turned into blood.
- vii. 2:10 "Men shrink from tasting - human beings, and thirst after water"
- viii. Exodus 7:21 (ESV) ²¹ And the fish in the Nile died, and the Nile stank, so that the Egyptians could not drink water from the Nile. There was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.
- ix. 3:10-13 "That is our water! That is our happiness! What shall we do in respect thereof? All is ruin."
- x. Exodus 7:24 (ESV) ²⁴ And all the Egyptians dug along the Nile for water to drink, for they could not drink the water of the Nile.
- xi. 2:10 "Forsooth, gates, columns and walls are consumed by fire."
- xii. Exodus 9:23-24 (ESV) ²³ Then Moses stretched out his staff toward heaven, and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and fire ran down to the earth. And the LORD rained hail upon the land of Egypt. ²⁴ There was hail and fire flashing continually in the midst of the hail, very heavy hail, such as had never been in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation.
- xiii. 10:3-6 "Lower Egypt weeps... The entire palace is without its revenues. To it belong [by right] wheat and barley, geese and fish"
- xiv. Exodus 9:25 (ESV) ²⁵ The hail struck down everything that was in the field in all the land of Egypt, both man and beast. And the hail struck down every plant of the field and broke every tree of the field.
- xv. 6:3 "Forsooth, grain has perished on every side."
- xvi. Exodus 9:31-32 (ESV) ³¹ (The flax and the barley were struck down, for the barley was in the ear and the flax was in bud. ³² But the wheat and the emmer were not struck down, for they are late in coming up.)
- xvii. 5:12 "Forsooth, that has perished which was yesterday seen. The land is left over to its weariness like the cutting of flax."
- xviii. Exodus 10:15 (ESV) ¹⁵ They covered the face of the whole land, so that the land was darkened, and they ate all the plants in the land and all the fruit of the trees that the hail had left. Not a green thing remained, neither tree nor plant of the field, through all the land of Egypt.
- xix. 5:5 "All animals, their hearts weep. Cattle moan..."
- xx. Exodus 9:3 (ESV) ³ behold, the hand of the LORD will fall with a very severe plague upon your livestock that are in the field, the horses, the donkeys, the camels, the herds, and the flocks.
- xxi. Exodus 9:19 (ESV) ¹⁹ Now therefore send, get your livestock and all that you have in the field into safe shelter, for every man and beast that is in the field and is not brought home will die when the hail falls on them." ' ' "
- xxii. 9:2-3 "Behold, cattle are left to stray, and there is none to gather them together."
- xxiii. Exodus 9:21 (ESV) ²¹ but whoever did not pay attention to the word of the LORD left his slaves and his livestock in the field.

- xxiv. 9:11 The land is without light”
- xxv. Exodus 10:22 (ESV) ²² So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was pitch darkness in all the land of Egypt three days.
- xxvi. 4:3 (5:6) “Forsooth, the children of princes are dashed against the walls.”
- xxvii. 6:12 “Forsooth, the children of princes are cast out in the streets.”
- xxviii. 6:3 “The prison is ruined.”
- xxix. 2:13 “He who places his brother in the ground is everywhere.”
- xxx. 3:14 “It is groaning throughout the land, mingled with lamentations”
- xxxi. Exodus 12:29–30 (ESV) ²⁹ At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the livestock. ³⁰ And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians. And there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where someone was not dead.
- xxxii. 7:1 “Behold, the fire has mounted up on high. Its burning goes forth against the enemies of the land.”
- xxxiii. Exodus 13:22 (ESV) ²² The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.
- xxxiv. 3:2 “Gold and lapis lazuli, silver and malachite, carnelian and bronze... are fastened on the neck of female slaves.”
- xxxv. Exodus 12:35–36 (ESV) ³⁵ The people of Israel had also done as Moses told them, for they had asked the Egyptians for silver and gold jewelry and for clothing. ³⁶ And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.
- xxxvi. Scholars say that Ipuwer Papyrus is fiction and part of a genre (series, class, or category of stories that share a common theme), but there is no other papyrus that is like this one!
- xxxvii. There Ipuwer Papyrus chronicles the plagues of Egypt!
- d. Isaiah 43:16–18 (ESV) ¹⁶ Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, ¹⁷ who brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: ¹⁸ “Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old.

e. God has done a great thing in the exodus!

III. Our Exodus

- a. Luke 9:30–31 (ESV) ³⁰ And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, ³¹ who appeared in glory and spoke of his **departure**, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.
- b. Just as God delivered Israel from slavery through Moses, God delivers us through Jesus
- c. Deuteronomy 18:15 (ESV) ¹⁵ “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—
- d. We have a detailed, eyewitness account of Jesus’ ministry, arrest, trial, punishment, execution, burial, and resurrection!

- i. Colossians 1:5 (ESV) ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel,
 - ii. Ephesians 1:13 (ESV) ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,
 - iii. Jesus entire ministry was centered on proclaiming the Gospel, that the Kingdom of God was 'at hand'
 - e. Through Jesus' sacrifice we have our 'exodus'
 - i. Matthew 1:21 (ESV) ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."
 - ii. Acts 2:21 (ESV) ²¹ And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'
 - iii. Romans 6:17–18 (ESV) ¹⁷ But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.
 - iv. Acts 22:16 (ESV) ¹⁶ And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'

IV. Great Things

- a. God has done great things!
- b. He delivered Israel out of bondage
- c. He delivers us out of sin