

New Year Special
New Year's Hope (Psalm 126)

John Percival

Introduction

- *The need for hope*
- **Two directions** to look:

LOOK BACK to what God has done in the past (v1-3)

- What God has done
- The people's response

LOOK FORWARDS to what God will do in the future (v4-6)

- A prayer (v4a)
- **Two pictures** of God's work:
 - *Streams in the Negev* (v4b)
 - The hard-working farmer (v5-6)
- Our response?

Conclusion

- Work for the Lord is not in vain (Gal. 6:9, etc)

Psalm 126 (NIV)

A song of ascents

- 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.