

Psalms 126:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

Analysis

The sowing-reaping principle is expanded with parallel imagery: 'He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.' The verse personalizes the principle ('he that goeth') while maintaining universal application. 'Goeth forth' emphasizes intentional action - going out to sow despite circumstances. 'Weepeth' intensifies the tears imagery (v. 5), suggesting profound sorrow accompanying the work. 'Bearing precious seed' highlights sacrifice - seed grain was valuable, and sowing required faith that multiplication would follow. The promise 'shall doubtless come again' provides certainty of return. 'Doubtless' (Hebrew 'bo yabo' - infinitive absolute) expresses emphatic certainty - coming will definitely happen. The result 'with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves' pictures the joyful farmer carrying abundant harvest - joy replaces weeping, abundance replaces scarcity, sheaves (harvested grain) validate the faith that sowed precious seed. This ending assures that God rewards faithful labor despite present tears.

Historical Context

Agricultural imagery would resonate powerfully with ancient agrarian society where survival depended on successful harvests. The cycle of planting and harvest required faith - giving up precious seed in hope of future multiplication. This provided perfect metaphor for spiritual realities where present sacrifice produces

future blessing. The principle assured post-exilic community that rebuilding efforts, though tearful, would yield joyful results.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What makes seed 'precious,' and why is this detail significant to the metaphor?
2. How does the certainty ('doubtless') of return and rejoicing encourage those currently weeping?
3. What spiritual activities constitute 'bearing precious seed' that we expect to produce harvest?
4. How does this verse apply to Christian suffering and labor that seems unproductive?
5. In what ways does faith bridge the gap between present weeping and future rejoicing?

Interlinear Text

יָבֹא	הַ זֶרַע	קִשְׁוֹן	נֹשֵׂא	וּבְכָה	יֵלֵךְ	הָ לֵוֹךְ
come	seed	precious	bearing	and weepeth	He that goeth	forth
H935	H2233	H4901	H5375	H1058	H3212	H1980
יָבֹא	בְּרֵנָה	נֹשֵׂא	אֶל־מִתְיוֹ:			
come	again with rejoicing	bearing	his sheaves			
H935	H7440	H5375	H485			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 30:5 (Parallel theme): For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

Isaiah 61:3 (Parallel theme): To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

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