

Singing the Psalms of Ascent

The Redemption Arc

Fourth Lent Reflection: **Psalm 126**

March 15, 2020

Redemption: *the turning of the broken into the beautiful*

Psalm 126

The ecstatic joy of redemption: vs.1-2

God's glory in redemption: vs. 2-3

The on-going need for redemption: vs. 4-6

The promise that redemption will have the last word: vs. 5-6

The Ecstatic Joy of Redemption

The gift of contrast: we know the quality of a good thing by its contrast

Cold water on a hot day, sunny day in the middle of winter, health after prolonged sickness

Today's Lenten symbol of the canteen (see in particular verse 4)

Perhaps one of the purposes of allowed evil is to forever exalt love as an experienced ultimate good

The Glory of God in Redemption

The great story arc of redemption is at the center of God's purposes

History: Creation - Fall - New Creation

Jesus: Incarnation - Crucifixion - Resurrection - Ascension

Perhaps is the best revelation of God: as Love and Power

What love God has demonstrated!!! See Romans 5:6-11

Allowing evil its free play and turning its effort toward God's good purposes

The On-Going Need for Redemption

Baptism: Descent - Under - Ascent

My Physical Life: Birth - Death - Resurrection

My Daily Life: Hope - Loss - Restoration

Tempers our expectations, helps us avoid excesses, infuses us with courage

We remember God's constant redeeming work at work: See Gen 50:20; Rom 8:28

The Promise that Redemption Will Have the Last Word

This is not to downplay or white wash evil but it is to say it never has the last word

This is not to pretend or forget or dismiss, because every part will be accounted, nothing wasted

A mosaic vision for the whole story of the world!

Note that the end state on the Redemption Arc is always higher than the first state

Journey Signs: Lament as a Map > Wrapped in the Coat of God's Keeping > Our Feet on a Rock > Sweet Drink from the Canteen >

The beauty of redemption

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