

PSALM 137

A Psalm of _____ remembering the captivity Israel suffered at the hands of the brutal Babylonians when they conquered Judah and destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple. The impact on the Jewish nation was devastating. The tragedy of all this is that Israel was in this place of despair due to _____ turning away from God.

I. The psalmist _____ their present dilemma Vs 1-4

A. ¹*By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion.*

1. **Babylon**-is found in Scripture from Genesis 10:10—Revelation 18:2. Nebuchadnezzar was probably the greatest ruler in Babylon and was responsible for the destruction of Jerusalem and carried the inhabitants away as captives.

2. **We sat, we wept when we remembered Zion**-the tragedy of remembering what one _____ with God, now that they are _____ God due to their own sinful rebellion against God

3. **Zion**-Jerusalem _____ its destruction by Babylon and Nebuchadnezzar

B. ²*We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof.*

The nation stopped _____ their harps because their symbol as a nation, Jerusalem, the Temple, and King David's palace, had all been destroyed

C. ³*For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion.*

The conquering Babylonians tormented and _____ their captives to sing songs about Jerusalem as entertainment to the Babylonians

D. ⁴*How shall we sing the LORD's song in a strange land?*

How could the captives _____ in the Lord when they were captives in a foreign land that did not recognize God as the one and true God alone.

II. The psalmist's _____ to Jerusalem Vs 5-6

A. It is written as though the psalmist is carrying on a _____ with Jerusalem

B. ⁵*If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning.*

1. "Absence makes the heart grow fonder"

2. The _____ behind the thought of the right hand is, forgetting Jerusalem will also take away the psalmist desire to play songs about Jerusalem Cf Vs 2

C. ⁶*If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; If I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy.*

1. A self-pronounced curse if the psalmist _____ Jerusalem

2. Forgetting Jerusalem will take away the psalmist _____ to sing about Jerusalem

III. The psalmist's _____ wish upon the enemies of Jerusalem Vs 7-9

A. ⁷*Remember, O LORD, the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem; Who said, Rase it, rase it, even to the foundation thereof.*

1. The Edomites strongly _____ the army of Babylon to destroy Jerusalem

2. **Rase it, rase it**-level Jerusalem and _____ it with a vengeance!

B. ⁸*O daughter of Babylon, who art to be destroyed; Happy shall he be, that rewardeth thee as thou hast served us.*

1. The psalmist pronounces a _____ judgment upon Babylon

2. The psalmist hopes that the one who destroys Babylon will find _____ and joy in doing so.

C. ⁹ *Happy shall he be, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones.*

1. Total _____ of the Babylonians
2. Even though it sounds extremely _____, yet this is the type of treatment Israel had experienced when Babylon razed Jerusalem, thus the psalmist is wishing the same type of treatment on Babylon.

It is in those spiritually _____ points that one finds it hard to sing praise to God, especially when those low points are due to the _____ of others toward us. We may find ourselves wishing retribution upon those who cause us such grief. At those times it is better to _____ and ask God to avenge us as he sees fit, and continue in our service for him, even though at that moment it may be extremely _____.