



Psalm 137

1 By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. 2 We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. 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. 4 How shall we sing the LORD'S song in a strange land?

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

7 Remember, O LORD, the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem; who said, Rase it, rase it, even to the foundation thereof. 8 O daughter of Babylon, who art to be destroyed; happy shall he be, that rewardeth thee as thou hast served us. 9 Happy shall he be, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones.

Introduction:

1. A Psalm of Sorrow and Vindictiveness.
2. Another Imprecatory (curse) Psalm.
3. It reflex an exilic and post-exilic time-frame.

Outline:

- A. The Lament (vv.1-4)
- B. The Confession of Confidence (vv.5-6)
- C. Prayer for Divine Intervention (vv.7-9)

Observations:

1. The Babylonian Captivity is in view here (vv.1-3)
2. The scoffing of the enemies and remembrance of Jerusalem are highlighted (vv.4-6).
3. Judgements imprecated upon Edom and Babylon (vv.7-9).
4. The rivers of Babylon (Euphrates & Tigris).

Lesson: Plaintive (or sorrowful) recollections ought to produce a passionate imprecation against the enemies of the LORD.

Psalm 138

1 A Psalm of David. I will praise thee with my whole heart: before the gods will I sing praise unto thee. 2 I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name. 3 In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul.

4 All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, O LORD, when they hear the words of thy mouth. 5 Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the LORD: for great is the glory of the LORD. 6 Though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off.

7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me. 8 The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.

Introduction:

1. This is another "Thanksgiving" Psalm.
2. "A Psalm of David" – an inspired heading.
3. Eight Psalms are David's Psalms in Book 5.

Outline:

- A. Personal Thanksgiving (vv.1-3)
- B. National Thanksgiving (vv.4-6)
- C. Confidence in the LORD's Presence (vv.7-8).

Observations:

1. David trusted in God for deliverance against a lion, a bear, Giant, King Saul and many other enemies.
2. If God delivered him in the past, surely He will deliver him in the future.

Lesson: God is to be praised even in the midst of our testings and trials.