

Singing In A Foreign Land

PSALM 137

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Singing In A Foreign Land

Text:

Psalms 137:1, *"By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion."*

Psalms 137:3, *"For there they that led us captive required of us songs, and they that wasted us (required of us) mirth, (saying), sing us one of the songs of Zion."*

Psalms 137:4, "How shall we sing Jehovah's song in a foreign land?"

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Singing in the Old Testament

Exodus 15:1, *"Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto Jehovah, and spake, saying, **I will sing unto Jehovah, for he hath triumphed gloriously: The horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.**"*

1 Chronicles 16:9, **"Sing unto him, sing praises unto him; Talk ye of all his marvellous works."**

Psalms 7:17, *"I will give thanks unto Jehovah according to his righteousness, **and will sing praise to the name of Jehovah Most High.**"*

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Singing in the Old Testament

Psalms 13:6, **"I will sing unto Jehovah, because he hath dealt bountifully with me."**

Psalms 66:2, **"Sing forth the glory of his name: make his praise glorious."**

Psalms 89:1, **"I will sing of the lovingkindness of Jehovah for ever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations."**

Psalms 149:1, **"Praise ye Jehovah. Sing unto Jehovah a new song, and his praise in the assembly of the saints."**

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Songs Of Ascent Psalms 120-134

Psalms 120:1, *"In my distress I cried unto Jehovah, and he answered me."*

Psalms 121:1, *"I will lift up mine eyes unto the mountains: from whence shall my help come?"*

Psalms 122:1, *"I was glad when they said unto me, let us go unto the house of Jehovah."*

Psalms 124:1, *"If it had not been Jehovah who was on our side, let Israel now say ..."*

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Now By The Rivers Of Babylon – Psalms 137

What Has Happened?

Deuteronomy 8:18ff; cf. Deuteronomy 4:24-25; Isaiah 1:19

Babylonian captivity.

605 BC – The Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar attacked Jerusalem and King Jehoiakim of Judah was forced into submission, becoming vassal to Babylon (2 Kings 24:1). Daniel and others were taken into captivity (Daniel 1:1-6).

597 BC – Jehoiakim was taken into captivity (2 Chronicles 36:5-6). Three months and ten days later, Jehoiachin, along with members of the royal family, were taken into captivity (2 Chronicles 36:9-10; 2 Kings 24:15-17).

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Now By The Rivers Of Babylon – Psalms 137

What Has Happened?

Babylonian captivity.

586 BC – After a siege lasting approximately one and a half years, Jerusalem was conquered and destroyed. Most of the people were taken into captivity, along with articles from the temple. Only the poorest people remained (2 Kings 25).

They lived as slaves for the next 70 years.
Jeremiah 25:11-12

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Now By The Rivers Of Babylon – Psalms 137

1. Their houses and lands had been taken from them and given to someone else. The land that had been passed from generation to generation since the conquering of the land. (About 1400 BC)
2. The Temple of God had been destroyed and the sanctified vessels stolen / misused. (cf. Daniel 1-5; What a dishonor to God.)
3. Now they are slaves to the Babylonians.
4. Their men had been killed, women raped, children slaughtered.
5. Do you think they have a song in their heart? cf. Psalms 122:1 – No nation. – No home. – No song. – Only memories.

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This Describes Many Believers Today. Psalms 137:4

We live in a foreign land.

Society's morals are corrupt.

- Fornication is normalized.
- Homosexual marriages recognized.
cf. Genesis 19:24; Romans 1:26
- Abortion on demand (over 60 million, since 1973).
- Christians are vilified.

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This Describes Many Believers Today. Psalms 137:4

We live in a foreign land.

Christians Compromise, No Conviction.

Ezekiel 22:23-31; (Luke 14:33 – Deny self).

Personal despair. (Sickness, financial ruin, family divided, infidelity, death of a loved one, feel suddenly alone).

Dreams did not come true.

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Why Do We Need To Sing In A Foreign Land?

Psalms 89:1, "I will sing of the lovingkindness of Jehovah for ever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations."

There is Power in song.

- Prepares you for battle. Ephesians 5:15ff
 - Jesus sang a hymn before going out to the garden to pray. Matthew 26:30
 - Paul and Silas in prison. Acts 16:25
- Strengthens and builds up others. Colossians 3:12-16
- Keeps you focused upon God.
cf. Ephesians 5:19; Psalms 9:2, "I will be glad and exult in thee; I will sing praise to thy name, O thou Most High."

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What Shall We Do?

1. This pandemic is TEMPORARY. Note: Haggai 2:3; Ezra 3:10-12; Nehemiah 12:27, 28, 43, 48
2. Do not immerse yourself in the news media or in social media.
cf. Proverbs 25:25
3. Let us be considerate of one another. Matthew 22:39
4. Remember who you are. Colossians 4:5; Matthew 5:13ff
5. Let us communicate with one another. See what we can do to address the immediate temporal needs of others. Philippians 2:2-4
6. Let us trust God and pray. 1 Timothy 2:1-3
7. Above all, let us focus on spiritual things. Colossians 3:2
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