

## **PSALM 137 – Longing for Zion in a Foreign Land!**

11/27/21 – Sat. Morn. Prayer - P. Twente, 714 425-9221; [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) [www.ptwente.com](http://www.ptwente.com)

### **O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES** Charles Wesley – (1739) - Festival Choir/Hosanna Church (1:24)

*1 O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace!*

*2 My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread thro' all the earth abroad the honors of Your name.*

*3 Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease, 'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.*

**Psalm 137** – This Psalm is a psalm of captivity. When Israel was carried away as a captive to Babylon, slaves, as they left Jerusalem, it was a horrible scene. The city was on fire, the enemy troops were breaking down the walls, they had destroyed the temple, they were crashing down the walls of the houses, setting the whole thing on fire. The Edomites who were the perennial enemies of Judah were there encouraging the Babylonian soldiers. They were crying out, “Raze it, raze it! Wipe it out!” Their last scene as they are being driven in chains bound and taking captive to Babylon, there last scene of Jerusalem was a bitter scene. Many of their children had been dashed in the streets by the Babylonians, the women with child were ripped up. It was a horrible, bloody mess. Those that did survive, they only picked those that were fit. They killed off the rest and those that they felt would make good slaves, those that were fittest, they put in chains to take them away to Babylon as slaves and they were captive.

### ***PSALM 137 - How Shall We Sing the Lord's Song?***

***Psa 137:1 By the rivers of Babylon, There we sat down, yea, we wept When we remembered Zion.***

- ***By the rivers of Babylon.*** That would be the Euphrates River that ran through the heart of Babylon.
- ***When we remembered Zion.*** Thinking back to that horrible scene of bloodshed and destruction.

***Psa 137:2 We hung our harps Upon the willows in the midst of it.***

- ***That I think is where the Weeping Willow got its name.*** The sitting by the rivers weeping in Babylon, hanging their hearts there on willows in the midst thereof.

***Psa 137:3 For there those who carried us away captive asked of us a song, And those who plundered us requested mirth, Saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"***

- ***They wanted them to sing one of the psalms that David had written.*** For the most part the Israeli music is upbeat, up tempo. They have their dances, and it is exciting music. It is always an exciting time to be around a bunch of Israelis when they start singing their folk songs. It is just good upbeat exciting music. They are great singers. They have some fabulous songs. They are just good upbeat tempos and great songs. So there in Babylon they say to sing some songs. Let us have a happy party. Here is their response.

***Psa 137:4 How shall we sing the LORD's song In a foreign land?***

- ***How can we sing praises to God under these conditions,*** the Lord's song here in this strange land? Then the declaration.

***Psa 137:5 If I forget you, O Jerusalem, Let my right hand forget its skill!***

- ***That is the cunning skillful playing of the harp.*** Let my right hand forget how to play on the harp cunningly, if I would forget Jerusalem., I do not want to sing, if I would forget what I saw in

Jerusalem of that terrible bloodshed! If I forget that, then let my right hand forget it is skill. I do not want to sing about it.

***Psa 137:6 If I do not remember you, Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth—If I do not exalt Jerusalem Above my chief joy.***

- **I want do not want to sing.** Just let my tongue get stuck at the top of my mouth making me incapable of singing.
- ***If I do not exalt Jerusalem above my chief joy!*** Jerusalem was and is a city that is the chief joy of so many devout Jews. There are those Jews that are living in Jerusalem today who feel that they are the most fortunate, blessed people on the face of the earth, for the privilege of being able to live in Jerusalem. There is a charm about the city that is unexplainable. Whenever one comes into Jerusalem, there is just something about it that makes you break out into weeping. There is something about that city that is like no other city in the world.
- **Those truly devout Jews feels that those Jews who live in Tel Aviv are almost atheists,** living outside of Jerusalem and being content in Tel Aviv. They feel that it is almost blasphemy. Every true Jew will not be content until he is living in Jerusalem itself. This love for Jerusalem, this deep devotion goes back even to Biblical times.
- **There in Babylon remembering Jerusalem and the horrible things that transpired** there, they prayed to God for vengeance. We probably, in this Christian era, find it rather difficult to understand their prayer because they really want God to take vengeance upon those that destroyed them.

***Psa 137:7 Remember, O LORD, against the sons of Edom The day of Jerusalem, Who said, "Raze (demolish, leave destitute) it, raze it, To its very foundation!"***

- ***Remember, O LORD, the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem.*** That is in the day in which Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians
- ***Who said, "Raze it, raze it, To its very foundation!"*** Remember them Lord! That is, Lord take care of them.

***Psa 137:8 O daughter of Babylon, who are to be destroyed, Happy the one who repays you as you have served us! (Isa 13:15-17) Everyone who is found will be thrust through, And everyone who is captured will fall by the sword. [16] Their children also will be dashed to pieces before their eyes; Their houses will be plundered, And their wives ravished. [17] "Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them, Who will not regard silver; And as for gold, they will not delight in it. (Jer 50:9) For behold, I will raise and cause to come up against Babylon An assembly of great nations from the north country, And they shall array themselves against her; From there she shall be captured. Their arrows shall be like those of an expert warrior; None shall return in vain. (Rev 18:6) Render to her just as she rendered to you and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her.***

- **Their prophets have predicted that Babylon would be God's instrument of judgement** and that they would fall to Babylon. This is basically the message that Jeremiah was repeating to them. It was the message by which Jeremiah got into trouble. He was thrown into prison accused being treasonous because he was saying, "Don't try to defend yourself against Babylon. God has given Jerusalem over to Babylon. Surrender and save the city." The false prophets were saying, "No, we're going to drive Babylon off and they'll never take Jerusalem." They accused Jeremiah of being in league with the Babylonians trying to demoralize the people from defending the city. He was accused of being a traitor. He was put in the dungeon. Jeremiah also prophesied against the Babylonians. One day God would bring His judgement upon Babylon. Other prophets, Isaiah and all, prophesied the judgement against Babylon. So, the one who wrote the psalm knew that Babylon was to be destroyed.

***Psa 137:9 Happy the one who takes and dashes Your little ones against the rock! Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.***

- **Even as the Babylonians had dashed the little children of Israel against the stones** so those that destroy you. That is their desire to see the vengeance against the Babylonians.

**SUMMARY:**

- Today the strength and might of ancient Edom and Babylon are a desolate waste and ruin. God cannot be ridiculed or mocked. May we stand on His promises!

**STANDING ON THE PROMISES** - Russell Carter (1849-1928)– Maranatha Singers (2:28)

1 *Standing on the promises of Christ the King, through eternal ages let His praises ring; glory in the highest, I will shout and sing, standing on the promises of God.*

*Refrain: Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior; standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.*

2 *Standing on the promises that cannot fail, when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail, by the living Word of God I shall prevail, standing on the promises of God. (Refrain)*

3 *Standing on the promises I now can see Perfect, present cleansing in the blood for me; Standing in the liberty where Christ makes free, Standing on the promises of God. (Refrain)*

4 *Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord, bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord, overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword, standing on the promises of God. (Refrain)*

**PRAY FOR OUR NATION'S LEADERS: PRAY FOR CALIFORNIA: PRAY FOR WORLD**

**LEADERS:** - Pray for World Leaders, especially their salvation, including: Xi Jinping – China; Narendra Modi- India; Joe Biden – USA; Joko Widodo - Indonesia; Jair Bolsonaro - Brazil; Arif Alvi - Pakistan; Muhammadu Buhari - Nigeria; Hasina Wazed - Bangladesh; Vladimir Putin- Russia; Lopez Obrador – Mexico; Naftali Bennett – Israel; Angela Merkel – Germany; Boris Johnson – U.K.; Kim Jong-un – North Korea; Kim Boo-kyum – South Korea.

**PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE OFFICERS/MILITARY;**

**ISRAEL:**