

Psalm 137

By The Rivers Of Babylon

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Psalm 137:1

- ▶ In contrast to most of the psalms, this was written while Judah was in captivity. The author can only remember Zion, not see it.
 - They were brought into captivity because of their sins.
 - Removed from Jerusalem/Zion. God's holy mountain.

Psalms 137:1

- ▶ Hebrews 12:22,25 – We too have been led to Zion, the mountain of the Lord, through figurative comparison of the kingdom of God.
 - Our sins will separate us from the presence of God. (Isaiah 59:2,12; John 8:24)
 - Romans 6:16 – We can be led into captivity by our sins, away from the dwelling of God.

Psalms 137:2-3

- ▶ "Sing us one of the songs of Zion."
 - It's easy to be joyful and sing songs of mirth and happiness while we can see the safety of Zion (be amongst our brethren). However, when we're captive in the troubles of the world and sin (by the rivers of Babylon, far from Zion) how can we be joyful?
 - James 5:13
 - ▶ Psalm 137 is a mournful prayer to God. A prayer for comfort from oppression.
 - ▶ Songs like "The Desert of Sorrow and Sin," have a deeper meaning for us during situations similar to this.
 - The songs we sing carry messages we do well to heed often. They are designed to exhort, edify, praise, uplift. Many are also prayers we send to God.

Psalms 137:4-6

- ▶ "How can we sing the Lord's song..." when we are captive in our sins?
 - Isaiah 59:2
 - We cannot forget where the Lord is and what he has done, what he expects of us.
 - ▶ Revelation 5:9-10,12,13
 - ▶ Matthew 6:33, 7:7-8 – Seek first the kingdom of God.
 - ▶ Keep our hearts and minds focused on the things of righteousness. Give no place for presumptuous, self-willed sin.
 - Psalms 19:12-14

Taken Captive by Sin

- ▶ Luke 19:10 – "The Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost."
 - Jesus refers to himself as the good shepherd that brings the lost sheep back from the wilderness, into the fold.
 - ▶ Luke 15:4-7
 - Must repent of our sins and be cleansed by the blood of the Lord. Be set free from the captivity of sin and brought to the holy mountain, Zion (Hebrews 12:22-25)