



Songs of Summer

Songs of Summer
Psalm 137

Psalm 137

- 1 By the waters of Babylon,
there we sat down and wept,
when we remembered Zion.
- 2 On the willows there
we hung up our lyres.
- 3 For there our captors
required of us songs,
and our tormentors, mirth, saying,
“Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”
- 4 How shall we sing the Lord's song
in a foreign land?
- 5 If I forget you, O Jerusalem,
let my right hand forget its skill!
- 6 Let my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth,
if I do not remember you,

if I do not set Jerusalem
above my highest joy!

7 Remember, O Lord, against the Edomites
the day of Jerusalem,
how they said, "Lay it bare, lay it bare,
down to its foundations!"

8 O daughter of Babylon, doomed to be destroyed,
blessed shall he be who repays you
with what you have done to us!

9 Blessed shall he be who takes your little ones
and dashes them against the rock!

Lamenting is natural and cannot be avoided.

- Psalm 137 was a lament.
 - v1-4: 1 By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion. 2 On the willows[a] there we hung up our lyres. 3 For there our captors required of us songs and our tormentors, mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" 4 How shall we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?
- This was a national lament since they were far from home, again, because of their disobedience and idolatry.
- This isn't just about geography. This is about spiritual dislocation—when God feels far and grief feels near.

Foreign places helps us remember

- v5-6: If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its skill! 6 Let my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy!
 - A vow to not forget Zion; to not let exile erase the identity and covenant of God's people.
- Daniel
 - "Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank..." (Daniel 1:8)
 - "He got down on his knees three times a day... and prayed... with his windows open toward Jerusalem." (Daniel 6:10).
 - His response to being in a foreign place was Worship.
 - Faith deepened and matured in exile through trials, prophetic experiences, and deep communion with God.

- **Sometimes the foreign place is exactly where God forms you. It's exactly where you need to be.**
- While Psalm 137 shows us the silence that pain can bring, Daniel shows us the discipline and favor that remembrance can build.

God Keeps His Promises. God Never Forgets.

- v7-9: 7 Remember, O Lord, against the Edomites the day of Jerusalem, how they said, "Lay it bare, lay it bare, down to its foundations!" 8 O daughter of Babylon, doomed to be destroyed, blessed shall he be who repays you with what you have done to us! 9 Blessed shall he be who takes your little ones and dashes them against the rock!
 - Jeremiah 29:10-14: 10 "For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. 11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare[a] and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. 13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.
 - Cyrus of Persia conquered Babylon in 539 BC and issued a decree in 538 BC allowing Jews to return home (Ezra 1).
 - v11; 14: Future & Hope; Bring You Back Home
 - While not a direct Prophecy about Christ, this is what he did for us on Calvary – gave us a future and a hope so that we might be brought back to a place of peace/oneness with God.
 - God's Word Supersedes What You See & Feel
 - Faith comes by hearing (Romans 10:17)
 - Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. (Matthew 4:4)
 - Faith is a response to God's word. God's promises.
 - Caleb:
 - Joshua 14:10-12:15 - And now, behold, the Lord has kept me alive, just as he said, these forty-five years since the time that the Lord spoke this word to Moses, while Israel walked in the wilderness. And now, behold, I am this day eighty-five years old. 11 I am still as strong today as I was in the day that Moses sent me; my strength now is as my strength was then, for war and for going and coming. 12 So now give me this hill country of which the Lord spoke on that day, for you heard on that day how the Anakim were there, with great fortified cities. It may be that the Lord will be

with me, and I shall drive them out just as the Lord said.” 15 And the land had rest from war.

- God preserved him for 45 years to make sure he sees the promise.
- Caleb’s reward for remaining faithful in foreign places was an inheritance of land and rest.
- God finishes what he starts, and all of his promises are yes and amen.

Closing Questions:

- What will you do when your song feels silenced?
- Can you still remember God’s faithfulness when life feels foreign?
- Will you trust God’s promises?