



CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
NINILCHIK

WEDNESDAY PRAYER MEETING

Mid-Week Devotional

SERIES:

“Christ in the Psalms”

April 10th, 2024

**“Song to Christ in a Foreign Land”
Psalm 137**

PSALM 137

This plaintive ode is one of the most charming compositions in the whole Book of Psalms for its poetic power. If it were not inspired it would nevertheless occupy a high place in poesy, especially the former portion of it, which is tender and patriotic to the highest degree. In the later verses (7, 8, 9), we have utterances of burning indignation against the chief adversaries of Israel, —an indignation as righteous as it was fervent. Let those find fault with it who have never seen their temple burned, their city ruined, their wives ravished, and their children slain; they might not, perhaps, be quite so velvet-mouthed if they had suffered after this fashion. It is one thing to talk of the bitter feeling which moved captive Israelites in Babylon, and quite another thing to be captives ourselves under a savage and remorseless power, which knew not how to show mercy, but delighted in barbarities to the defenceless. The song is such as might fitly be sung in the Jews' wailing-place. It is a fruit of the Captivity in Babylon, and often has it furnished expression for sorrows which else had been unutterable. It is an opalesque psalm within whose mild radiance there glows a fire which strikes the beholder with wonder.¹

The Treasury of David

by Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892)

VOLUME VII, PASSMORE & ALABASTER EDITION

Devotional Thoughts from Psalm 137

REFLECTION. In the dark day of Israel, Babylon was a world empire that had taken the people captive. Under Nebuchadnezzar, Babylon destroyed Jerusalem, the city of God. The primary question from God's people is from v4.

Yet this psalm also reflects the song of Christians saved by grace through faith in Christ. Babylon represents the unsaved, unbelieving world. As Babylon destroyed Jerusalem, unbelief destroyed the Son of God on Calvary's tree. Though we are saved, we are surrounded by doubt and unbelief in a world that either hates Christ or refuses to know and love Christ. How could we possibly sing with joy when the world mocks Christ and torments His people? (v3). The answer is contained in the imprecation of the psalm (vv7-9). At the return of Christ Jesus, He will destroy the world (vv7-8), even taking the most simple of unbelieving rebels and dashing them upon the Rock of His gospel (v9).

¹ *poesy* - poetry; *opalesque* - having qualities or characteristics like an opal, a precious gem stone that changes color according to its reflection of light

Devotional Meditations from Psalm 137

- v1. Our condition was sorrowful in the world (Babylon) before Jesus saved us. **Matt 24:51b**
- v2. Praise & merriment hangs upon Calvary's tree until godly sorrow brings repentance. **2 Cor 7:10**
- v3. Fickle unbelief desires songs of mirth & not salvation from Messiah. **Matt 11:16-19**
- vv4-6. We should keep silent in this world if Jesus is not our highest joy. **Psa 16:11; 73:25-26**
- vv7-9. Jesus will lay bare the foundations of the old heaven and earth, and in judgment, dash them upon the Rock of His gospel. **2 Pet 3:10; Rev 21:4**

Devotional Challenge from Psalm 137

1. Consider the ancient city of Babylon and its idolatrous unbelief. Why do you suppose that godless unbelief in the past is different from, or the same as, that of our present day? In what ways are they the same? In what ways are they different? (see Psa 137:1-3)
2. Have situations or circumstances in the world today ever made you so sad that you did not want to sing praises to God? Why or why not? Have you ever thought about Jesus and His crucifixion during those times of sorrow? What did those thoughts of Christ do for your sadness? (see Psa 137:4-6)
3. How have thoughts of Christ's return and judgment affect your faith, attitude, or emotions? (see Psa 137:7-9)

My Notes for Considering Psalm 137:

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