

# Psalm 137 - Historical Record of Babylonian Captivity

## The Unrecorded Years

There is no detailed historical record from the 70 years of Babylonian Captivity: Psalm 137 is one of the clearest records of the captivity. Esther made possible the work of Nehemiah: Except for her, Jerusalem might never have been rebuilt, and there might have been a very history. If the Hebrew nation had been wiped out 500 years before it brought Christ into the world, it might have made a gigantic difference in the destiny of mankind! No Messiah for a lost world...

## Psalm 137

### Remembering Jerusalem

- 1 By the rivers of Babylon, There we sat down and wept, When we remembered Zion.
- 1 By the rivers of Babylon, There we sat down and wept, When we remembered Zion.
- 1 There we sat down and cried— by the rivers of Babylon— as we remembered Zion.
- 1 By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion.
  
- 2 Upon the willows in the midst of it We hung our harps.
- 2 Upon the willows in the midst of it We hung our harps.
- 2 On the willows there we hung our harps,
- 2 We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof.
  
- 3 For there our captors demanded of us songs, And our tormentors, jubilation, *saying*, "Sing for us one of the songs of Zion!"
- 3 For there our captors demanded of us songs, And our tormentors mirth, *saying*, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion."
- 3 for it was there that our captors asked us for songs and our torturers demanded joy from us, "Sing us one of the songs about Zion!"
- 3 For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion.
  
- 4 How can we sing the LORD'S song In a foreign land?
- 4 How can we sing the LORD's song In a foreign land?
- 4 How are we to sing the song of the LORD on foreign soil?

4 How shall we sing the LORD'S song in a strange land?

5 If I forget you, Jerusalem, May my right hand forget *its skill*.

5 If I forget you, O Jerusalem, May my right hand forget *her skill*.

5 If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand cease to function.

5 If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning.

6 May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth If I do not remember you, If I do not exalt Jerusalem Above my chief joy.

6 May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth If I do not remember you, If I do not exalt Jerusalem Above my chief joy.

6 May my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth if I don't remember you, if I don't consider Jerusalem to be more important than my highest joy.

6 If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy.

7 Remember, LORD, against the sons of Edom The day of Jerusalem, Those who said, "Lay it bare, lay it bare To its foundation!"

7 Remember, O LORD, against the sons of Edom The day of Jerusalem, Who said, "Raze it, raze it To its very foundation."

7 Remember the day of Jerusalem's fall, LORD, because of the Edomites, who kept saying, "Tear it down! Tear it right down to its foundations!"

7 Remember, O LORD, the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem; who said, Rase it, rase it, even to the foundation thereof.

8 Daughter of Babylon, you devastated one, Blessed will be one who repays you With the retribution with which you have repaid us.

8 O daughter of Babylon, you devastated one, How blessed will be the one who repays you With the recompense with which you have repaid us.

8 Daughter of Babylon! You devastator! How blessed will be the one who pays you back for what you have done to us.

8 O daughter of Babylon, who art to be destroyed; happy shall he be, that rewardeth thee as thou hast served us.

9 Blessed will be one who seizes and dashes your children Against the rock.

9 How blessed will be the one who seizes and dashes your little ones Against the rock.

9 How blessed will be the one who seizes your young children and pulverizes them against the cliff!

9 Happy shall he be, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones.