

**Psalms Handout  
Week Fifteen**

Review: In the land, from the land, back to the land.

Ps. 78, 105

137/106

107

Psalm 137

By the rivers of Babylon (Babel).

There we sat down (dwelt) and wept,

When we remembered Zion.

2 Upon the willows in the midst of it

We hung our harps.

3 For there our captors demanded of us songs,

And our tormentors (those that caused us to howl) mirth (glee, joy), saying,

“Sing us one of the songs of Zion.”

Why weep at the memory?

-History and home is

-History is

Jer. 25:3 I have spoken persistently to you, but you have not listened. And though the LORD persistently sent you all His servants the prophets, you have neither listened nor inclined your ears to hear when they said, “Turn now, every one of you, from your evil way and wicked doings, and you will remain on the land that the LORD has given to you and your ancestors from of old and forever; do not go after other gods to serve and worship them, and do not provoke Me to anger with the work of your hands. Then I will do you no harm.” Yet you did not listen to Me, says the LORD, and so you have provoked Me to anger with the work of your hands to your own harm. Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: Because you have not obeyed my words, I am going to send for all the tribes of the north....

-Memory of the breakup is

This isn't our home either...

Dan. 6:10 Although Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he continued to go to his house, which had windows in its upper room open toward Jerusalem, and to get down on his knees three times a day to pray to his God and praise him, just as he had done previously.

We are citizens of Phil. 3:20 but  
Don't lose sight of God's kingdom.

These emotions, sorrow and rage, are best handled by going to God and...

Eccl. 4:9 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Why hang up their harps?

-Simply not feeling it

-Out of

Jdgs. 16:25 And it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they said, Call for Samson, that he may make us sport. And they called for Samson out of the prison house; and he made them sport: and they set him between the pillars.

Acts 16:22 The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God....

Irony

-Out of reverence

4 How can we sing the LORD'S song In a foreign land?

Can/should we sing this type of deep lament in our churches today?

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

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.

Self-maledictory oath

Like-“Cross my heart, hope to die.”

Psalmist is comparing Babylon to Jerusalem. City of man with the city of

Today it's the same but different.

Lk. 17:20 The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or, 'There it is!' For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst.”

The big shift from mostly historical to mostly

Two enemies indicted-

7 Remember, O LORD, against the sons of Edom

The day of Jerusalem,

Who said, “Raze it, raze it

To its very foundation.”

A little background:

Obad. 1:10 For the slaughter and violence done to your brother Jacob, shame shall cover you, and you shall be cut off forever. On the day that you stood aside, on the day that strangers carried off his wealth and foreigners entered his gates and cast lots for Jerusalem, you, too, were one of them. But you should not have gloated over your brother

on the day of his misfortune; you should not have rejoiced over the people of Judah on the day of their ruin; you should not have boasted on the day of distress. You should not have entered the gate of my people on the day of their calamity; you should not have joined in the gloating over Judah's disaster on the day of his calamity; you should not have stolen his goods on the day of his calamity. You should not have stood at the crossings  
*to cut off his fugitives; you should not have handed over his survivors on the day of distress.*

“Raze it, raze it To its very foundation.”

Jerusalem-

Babylon-

8 O daughter of Babylon, you devastated (dead/wasted) one,

How happy will be the one who repays you

With the recompense with which you have repaid us.

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

We cannot gloss over this or be embarrassed by it

Paul and even Jesus quote the imprecatory psalms

Rom. 11:9-10 And David says, “Let their table become a snare and a trap, and a stumbling block and a retribution to them. “Let their eyes be darkened to see not, and bend their backs forever.”

We cannot say this is a product of a bygone era

Ex. 23:4 When you come upon your enemy's ox or donkey going astray, you shall bring it back. When you see the donkey of one who hates you struggling under its burden and you would hold back from setting it free, you must help to set it free

Prov. 25:21 If your enemies are hungry, give them bread to eat, and if they are thirsty, give them water to drink,

Deut. 32:36 For the Lord will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants, when he sees that their power is gone and there is none remaining, bond or free.

Lex talionis-

Job 31:29 “Have I rejoiced at the extinction of my enemy, or exulted when evil befell him?

No, I have not allowed my mouth to sin by asking for his life in a curse.

God considers

Jer. 12:1 You will be in the right, O LORD, when I lay charges against you, but let me put my case to you. Why does the way of the guilty prosper? Why do all who are treacherous thrive? You plant them, and they take root; they grow and bring forth fruit; you are near in their mouths yet far from their hearts. But you, O LORD, know me; you see me and test me; my heart is with you. Pull them out like sheep for the slaughter, and set them apart for the day of slaughter. How long will the land mourn and the grass of every field wither? For the wickedness of those who live in it, the animals and the birds are swept away, and because people said, “He is blind to our ways.”

12:5 If you have raced with runners and they have wearied you, how will you compete with horses?

Job 7:19 Will you not look away from me for a while, let me alone until I swallow my spittle? If I sin, what do I do to you, you watcher of humanity? Why have you made me your target? Why have I become a burden to you?

Job 38:2 Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up your loins like a man; I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

Job 42:7 After the Lord had spoken these words to Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite: “My wrath is kindled against you and against your two friends, for you have not spoken of me what is right, as *my servant Job has*.

It reveals man’s \_\_\_\_\_ and God’s \_\_\_\_\_  
What can we learn as those who are called to enter into people’s pain?

The two big questions of psalm 137.

1. Was this guy right to sing/pray this request?      2. Can we sing/pray this type of request today?

Was this guy right in what he felt?

Ps. 7:11 God is a righteous judge, a God who expresses His wrath every day.

Was he right in who he took it to?

Was he right in how he took it?

He is drawing on...

Justice of God

Ps. 11:7 For the Lord is righteous, He loves justice; the upright will see His face.

Promises of God

Gen. 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Jer. 51:56 For the destroyer is coming against her, against Babylon, and her mighty men will be captured, their bows are shattered; for the Lord is a God of recompense, He will fully repay.

Was he right in what he asked for?

Can we pray this today?

\*The wrong answer...

What do we have to inform us?

Mat. 5:38 You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also...43 You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...

Lk. 6:27 But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

Mat. 23:13 “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut off the kingdom of heaven from people; for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense you make long prayers; therefore you will receive greater condemnation. “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel around on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves. “Woe to you, blind guides,

Lk. 10: But whatever city you enter and they do not receive you, go out into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your city which clings to our feet we wipe off in protest against you; yet be sure of this, that the kingdom of God has come near.' I say to you, it will be more tolerable in that day for Sodom than for that city.

Gal. 1:9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

Mat. 6:9 Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name. 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Absolute prohibitions

We can never pray for

We can never execute

Rom. 12:19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord (Deut. 32). "But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink (2 Ki. 6); for in so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

So what are we clearly called to do?

2 Cor. 5:18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Rom. 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Mat. 5:11 Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

1 Pt. 2:19 For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.

So what is different between us and them (the OT guys)?

Raze it, raze it to its very foundation.

Jn. 2:18 The Jews then said to Him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But He was speaking of the temple of His body. After He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this, and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Mat. 26:59 The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward. Finally, two came forward and declared, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'"

## V. 9. "Dash"

Lk. 19:41 When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side, and they will level you (dash) to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation."

### Discussion

Some of us have too much anger, some of us don't have enough. Which one are you?  
How are you dealing with it? How are you addressing this concern?

Does Ps 137 inform this verse from Ephesians?

Eph. 4:26 Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,