

## LESSONS FROM PSALMS ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVEN

Scripture: Psalms 137:1-9

Ray O. Brooks

Introduction:

- A. No one other than God knows for sure who wrote this Psalm.
  - B. The content and the change in tense from past in the first three verses to the present tense in the last five verse indicates that the writer had been a captive in Babylon but had returned to Jerusalem.
  - C. There are some important practical lessons to be gleaned from words of this sad Psalm.
- I. LEARN THAT GOD'S OWN PEOPLE ARE PRONE TO SIN AGAINST GOD.
    - A. Why had these chosen people of God been in Babylon?
      1. Sin is the shortest answer possible, sin against the God who had delivered them out of bondage and placed them in the promised land.
      2. Jeremiah chapters 1-29 paint a very grim word picture of an unthankful, disobedient people set on destruction.
    - B. In our own church age, how far away from the truth, "the faith once delivered to the saints," have the vast majority of Christian religions gone?
      1. There is idolatry in the name of God; and almost any kind of heresy taught as truth in churches calling themselves Christian.
    - C. But let us rejoice that in Judah and in our time there are those who hold fast to the truth and worship God in spirit and in truth ... BUT in the eyes of the world, they are looked upon as those who cause the problems and they too suffer.
  - II. LEARN THAT THE TIME WILL COME WHEN GOD'S SINNING SAINTS WILL BE PAINED BY THEIR MEMORY. vs. 1-4
    - A. vs. 1-4.
      1. While still in Babylon, they wept when they remembered Jerusalem.
      2. Instead of singing, they hanged their harps on the willow trees and sat down.
      3. v.3 They were belittled and ridiculed.
      4. Very likely, those so tortured were those who had held true to God, but had been forced into captivity.
    - B. In our church age, there are those who have held fast to the faith and to true worship.
      1. Many even now suffer the ridicule of the ungodly.
      2. In the great tribulation they shall suffer privation and severe treatment of the antichrist and his forces.
  - III. LEARN THAT GOD'S TRUE PEOPLE HAVE A PATRIOTIC DEVOTION TO GOD AND HIS CAUSE.
    - A. vs. 5, 6
      1. The people determined not to forget Jerusalem.
      2. They preferred Jerusalem above anything Babylon or the world had to offer.
    - B. God's true people who go into the tribulation period will be true to God regardless of the cost.
      1. We will not forget the promised New Jerusalem.
      2. We will prefer the New Jerusalem above anything the Antichrist has to offer.
  - IV. LEARN THE GOD'S TRUE PEOPLE WILL CALL UPON THE LORD TO EXACT SEVERE PUNISHMENT UPON THOSE WHO HAVE TORMENTED US. vs. 7-9
    - A. There were two groups whom Judah called on the Lord to deal with.
      1. v. 7 Edom those who claimed to be God's people, but rejoiced to see Babylon destroying Jerusalem.
      2. vs. 8, 9 Babylon Who had sacked the city of Jerusalem plundering, raping, killing babies.
      3. Judah wanted God to punish both with the same kind of destruction they had brought upon Jerusalem.

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- B. In the time of the judgment of nations (peoples) we will call upon the Lord to punish the ungodly.
  - 1. Those who have called themselves Christian and dealt God's true people much misery.
  - 2. The antichrist and his cruel forces ...

### CONCLUSION:

God grant us the grace to stand now and until the Lord shall return whatever may happen to us.