

Exile Lament

Writer not named · Book V · Psalms That Call for Justice

IN ONE SENTENCE



xiles weeping by Babylon's rivers refuse to sing Zion's songs for captors, vow never to forget Jerusalem, and cry for justice.

Remember it: One thirty-seven: harps on the willows, but Jerusalem never forgotten.

MEMORY VERSE

If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its skill.

Psalm 137:5 · World English Bible

HEBREW WORD

בִּזְכְּרֵנוּ

“when we remembered” · verse 1

In the Psalms: 54 times, in 31 psalms

בִּזְכְּרֵנוּ means “when we remembered.” In Hebrew, to remember is more than recalling a fact; it is holding something in mind so that it shapes what you do. The exiles remember Zion (v. 1), vow to remember Jerusalem (v. 6), and ask the LORD to remember Edom’s cruelty (v. 7).

HOW THE PSALM MOVES

1–4 Exiles weep in Babylon and refuse to sing Zion’s songs

5–6 A vow never to forget Jerusalem

7–9 A raw cry for justice against Edom and Babylon

MY NOTES



Listen. Hear Psalm 137 sung in the **Psalm Song** app, or free at ispress.de/psalms/137.

Cantillated. Sung: chanted back and forth between a leader and the people.

Crying Out in Distress

Zion & the House of God

Justice on the Wicked

FILL IN THE BLANKS

Exiles _____ by Babylon's rivers refuse to sing Zion's songs for captors, vow never to _____ Jerusalem, and cry for _____.

CHECK YOURSELF

1. Where did the exiles hang their harps?

(A) On the city walls

(C) In the temple

(B) On the willows

(D) On the palm trees

2. What did their captors demand?

(A) Gold and silver

(C) One of the songs of Zion

(B) Their firstborn

(D) A new king

3. Which people said, "Raze it! Raze it"?

(A) The Philistines

(C) The Assyrians

(B) The Egyptians

(D) The children of Edom

TALK IT OVER

1. Why do the exiles refuse to sing, and what do they vow instead?

2. What does it mean to bring even our anger and grief honestly to the LORD?

3. What does it mean for you to sing the LORD's song in a "foreign land"?

IN YOUR OWN WORDS: WHAT DOES PSALM 137 TEACH?

☐ I listened to the song

☐ I can say verse 5 by heart

☐ I can say what it teaches

☐ I know the picture word

Answers: Blanks: weeping · forget · justice · 1. B (v. 2) · 2. C (v. 3) · 3. D (v. 7)