

Corona Chronicle.

West Worthing Evangelical Church. Rugby Road.

Being Church during lockdown.

Sunday March 14th



"And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear." (Isaiah 65:24)!

What a privilege we have as the children of God- our Heavenly Father knows what we need before

we even realise! Not only that, but whenever, whatever our circumstance or wherever we are, he

hears us when we call and promises to answer.

What are you in need of today? Ask! Are you unsure which way to tread? Seek! Are you unsure which door is open for you? Knock! Our Great

High Priest never stops interceding on our behalf. Our mighty God never sleeps or slumbers;

never goes on holiday! He is longing to meet us at the trysting place. Why do we tarry? What

holds us back? Is there something hindering your fellowship with the Shepherd of your soul? Seek

repentance and renewed fellowship, don't delay. Ask the Lord to help you with your burdens.

Roll your anxieties onto Him and feel His peace steal over you. Have you trails and temptations? Are

your sorrows overwhelming you? Are your loved ones not safe in the Ark? While you are yet

speaking, He will hear and He will answer. Take it ALL dear friend to Jesus...!

'In His arms He'll take and shield you, You will find a solace there.

Dr Fortune Ncube Emmanuel Farnham

A heavenly mind is a joyful mind; this is the nearest and truest way to live a life of comfort, and without this you must need be uncomfortable. Can a man be at a fire and not be warm; or in the sunshine and not have light? Can your heart be in heaven, and not have comfort? [On the other hand,] what could make such frozen, uncomfortable Christians but living so far as they do from heaven?... O Christian, get above. Believe it, that region is warmer than this below.

Saints Everlasting. Richard Baxter

Difficult passages of scripture

As a Child I sang as a treble in a Church choir and Sunday Morning and Evening we would chant Psalms. Although the whole of Psalm 137 was in the Cathedral Psalter the choir master would always insist that we did not sing the final verse considering it inappropriate for the sensitivities of the Church congregation let alone for a sensitive nine year old choirboy.

Psalm 137 is found in one of the Imprecatory Psalms (or Precatory Psalms) that speak of violence against the enemies of God. That verse reads, "Happy is the one who seizes your infants / and dashes them against the rocks."

It is important to understand the context of this verse and others like it. The background is the Jewish people calling upon God to exact revenge upon their military enemies. Psalms are songs that express intense emotions, The writer did not intend to go out and kill babies; rather, he desired justice.

Although I would not dash a infant on a stone but the intensity I feel against the Babylon who have kept me from Zion is so strong that I pray that God would deal with the Babylonians.

Psalm 137 is not a selfish prayer for personal revenge. It is a plea for God to intervene in the affairs of men to keep His covenant and right all wrongs.

But many would pray that he could return to the City of David. To the temple .Where the ordinances where. They dreamt about it.

The Prophets prophesised this. Now it had come true. They were sad in Babylon but this had turned to joy. Ezra 3v11 -13

In captivity by the waters of Babylon the Psalmist sadly remembers Zion and remembers that God's people cannot sing the praises so well in captivity as they can in the temple and see the ordinances that shadow atonement for sin and God's forgiveness.. The Psalmist even asks for his tongue to be silent and his right hand to be inactive if he ever fails to exalt Jerusalem. He goes on to remember that the Edomites who were in confederation with Babylon were enthusiastic to see Babylon raised to the ground. He ponders on what will happen to those who deal harshly with God's people and the city of Jerusalem.

Not only does this verse have to be seen in context but in the whole of Scripture We must be careful to interpret Psalm 137 . It is a normal human desire to see justice done and for enemies to be defeated. However,

Romans 12:17–19 commands, "Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord."

Psalm 137 is not a selfish prayer for personal revenge. It is a plea for God to intervene in the affairs of men to keep His covenant and right all wrongs.

David Page





Bible Pathway Adventures

WORD SEARCH

BALAAAM'S DONKEY

A A A M M O A B Q N V J S P I S F E F O
Q Z N E V O I Y X K Q P B Y S I D W K K
H A W G Z Z I Y H F I Y D V M N B M C Z
H D K M E S C S G W I I K C O R A B R O
I S R A E L I T E S J Y J B D O L X I A
S I Y E S H U A B S F K N F A U A M X S
S X X C R D W Y M B M I L M S T K V H H
T E Y H W H Q Y N U M N C O P P T Q R O
U A Y F T G I Q A Q S G X N B A Z L X F
A U Z B Q F J T A K X T U E S R B T E A
D I D F U U V M R U D R B Y X M A U U R
P J K M E S O P O T A M I A L G L L X F
A R J R D U Z N H R H B J Y G D A J J V
N X O A J N I V P U D N S Q E I A U M N
Y D Q P P C Z J Y Y O M I D E Q M F U C
G J E O H T Y K G F M H Q K S Q Y W A U
I Y I D O E S M U H Z R A C A N A A N O
A L T A R M T P M I D I A N U T A T L P
X N K Z H H D E X A M F G I A N T S Z F
T D O N K E Y V H P Z O Y A U G D Z W R

MESOPOTAMIA

MOAB

BATTLE

ANGEL

GIANTS

BALAAAM

PROPHET

ALTAR

YHWH

KING

ISRAELITES

CANAAN

MIDIAN

DONKEY

MONEY

BALAK

YESHUA

SHOFAR

Hymns Prayers and Bible Readings

Hymn

1 By rivers of sorrow we sat and remembered
the city of happiness where we belong;
our harps and our melodies hung in the branches,
and there our tormentors demanded a song!

2 O how shall we sing in the anguish of exile
the songs of the Lord in a far away land?
Jerusalem, see if I ever forget you
till death take my voice and the skill of my hand!

3 You daughter of Babylon, doomed to destruction,
you people of Edom who throw down our walls,
be warned of the judgement on you and your children:
when blasphemy fails and when tyranny falls.

4 And then shall the strings of the harp yield their music,
and then shall the tune of our song be restored;
and then shall the kings of the earth see God's purpose,
the strong, the unquenchable, love of the Lord.
After Psalms 137 and 138, Michael Perry (1942 - 1996)
© Mrs B Perry/Jubilate Hymns

Bible Reading

Romans 12:14-19

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹ Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore

"If your enemy is hungry, feed
him;
If he is thirsty,

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Prayers

Meditation on Psalm 137

How can we sing songs of the kingdom of God when we are surrounded and dominated by an unbelieving culture and soaked in rebellious lifestyles. To sing in the middle of this culture would seem like a mockery of our words. The darkness is so total that it is hard to imagine that light exists. Lord of light show us light and keep our eyes from being filled with darkness.

Help us not forget the kingdom and righteousness of YOUR rule and reign. Help me to remember your ways and will and in that find joy.

Lord, dash the dark demonic forces and their plans against your people. King Jesus, come and revive and renew us. Let the traps of enemies of the gospel be dispersed

PRAYING FOR GOD'S GRACE AND PROTECTION

From Isaiah 33

Lord,
be gracious to us,
for we long for you.
Be our strength every morning,
and our salvation in time of distress,
through Jesus our redeemer. Amen.

GOING OUT FROM WORSHIP

From 2 Timothy 2

Be strong through the grace that is ours in union with Christ Jesus; take *your* part in suffering as his loyal soldier; remember him who was raised from the dead, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.