Great is the Holy One - nothing hindering, The golden cup is in His Hand

Ps 137:1 By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion.

2 We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof.

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

Isa 12:1 And in that day thou shalt say, O LORD, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me.

2 Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.

3 Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

4 And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted.

5 Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth.

6 Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for **great is the Holy One** of Israel in the midst of thee.

1. The water courses were many in Babylon
   1. “By the rivers of Babylon”
      1. broad rivers
      2. natural streams
      3. artificial canals
   2. It is not the same in Babylon as it is in Zion
      1. They were sitting down by the rivers of Babylon
         1. **There** we sat down
            1. Foreign soil
            2. Strange land
            3. River bank
         2. “we wept”
   3. Babylon became a place of idle weeping,
      1. tears flowing but
      2. No genuine repentance
      3. No prayer of faith
      4. No song of Joy, praise, deliverance, salvation, fullness of blessing
   4. Zion became only a memory
      1. sitting, weeping and remembering Zion at a river bank
      2. sitting beneath the shadow of the temple of Bel,
      3. Nothing could subdue their spirit; but the remembrance of the temple of their God, the palace of their king, and the center of their national life, oppression dried their tears and made their hearts burn with wrath: but when the beloved city of their solemnities came into their minds they could not refrain from floods of tears.

**Ps 137:2** We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. Men put away their instruments of joy when a heavy cloud darkens their soul. Men put away their instruments of joy when the soul is captive.

**Ps 137:3** 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. **Carried us away Captive** “they that wasted us”

08437. llwt towlal, to-lawl' from 3213; causing to howl, an oppressor:-- **wasted**. 03213. lly yalal, yaw-lal' to howl (with a wailing tone) or yell (with a boisterous one):--(make to) howl, be howling.

Can’t sing one song of Zion

So many distractions, hindrances, differences, separations, losses

Can mourn, howl, wail, scream, yell, holler but can’t sing

A song of praise, a holy hymn, a sacred tune to worship Jehovah out of a joyful heart even in a severe test, overcoming sorrowful testing grounds.

1Pe 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: 13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

Nothing could have been more glorious, nothing more productive for deliverance.

Babylon requested songs discouraged captives can’t sing

It takes a right heart to sing praise to God in every situation.

Ac 16:25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. 26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

Jer 51:7 **Babylon** hath been **a golden cup** in the **LORD'S hand**, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad. Jer 51:48 Then the heaven and the earth, and all that is therein, shall sing for Babylon: for the spoilers shall come unto her from the north, saith the LORD.

Isa 14:4 ¶ That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased!

Da 2:38 And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.

Become an instrument of Mercy or Judgment.

Can’t sing an old song? “sing a new song”

Ps 144:9 ¶ I will **sing a new song** unto thee, O God: upon a psaltery and an instrument of ten strings will I sing praises unto thee. **Ps 40:3** And he hath put **a new song** in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many **shall see** it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD. **Ps 33:3** Sing unto him **a new song**; play skilfully with a loud noise. 4 For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth. 5 He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD. 8 Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. **Isa 41:15** Behold, **I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument** having teeth: thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and shalt make the hills as chaff.

**Isa 30:29** Ye shall have a song, as in the night when a holy solemnity is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one goeth with a pipe to come into the mountain of the LORD, to the mighty One of Israel.

As in the passover night ye celebrate your deliverance from Egypt, so shall ye celebrate your rescue from Assyrian bondage.

***Ps 137:4*** *How shall we sing the LORD'S song in a strange land?*

How shall they sing at all? sing in a strange land? sing Jehovah's song among the uncircumcised?

Eze 33:32 And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not.

There are many things which the ungodly could do, and think nothing of the doing thereof, which gracious men cannot venture upon.

The question "How shall we?" coming from a hard heart, discouraged and sitting down.

The question "How shall we? With a new tone of voice a change of heart, comes of a tender conscience cultivated by faith in the truth and the joy of the Lord.

**Ps 137:5** If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning.

**We are not called to** fetch music for rebels with the Lord's instruments, or accompany with sweet skill a holy Psalm or old hymn desecrated into a common song for fools to laugh at.

**Ps 137:6** 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.

*I prefer Jerusalem above my chiefest joy.* The sacred city must ever be first in their thoughts, they had sooner be dumb than dishonour sacred hymns, and give occasion to the oppressor to ridicule her worship.

How much more should we love the church of God of which we are children and citizens. How jealous should we be of her honour, how zealous for her prosperity.

Never let us jests in the words of Scripture, or make amusement out of holy things, lest we be guilty of forgetting the Lord and his cause.

Ps 137:5 If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. 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. (to worship only God with the souls won is our chief Joy) Heb. 12:2

1. To rejoice with the world is to forget the church. To backslide with the church is to try to enjoy the world instead of save the world and edify the church above your chief Joy.  
2. To love the church we must prefer her above everything in the world.  
3. To serve the church we must be prepared to suffer anything. Joy not affliction can sing.

**Ps 137:7 ¶ Remember, O LORD, the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem; who said, Rase it, rase it, even to the foundation thereof.**

1. Judah’s cause of Joy and Edom’s cause of judgment. Not a spirit of revenge, but a holy zeal for the glory of God and the honour of his kingdom in the face of their adversaries.
2. The extent of Edom’s judgment is revealed here in prophecy. "Rase it" (Make bare) to empty, pour out, demolish:--leave destitute, discover, empty, make naked, pour (out), uncover. “**Remember, O LORD, the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem; who said, Rase it, rase it**” “rewardeth thee as thou hast served us”
3. Edom’s season of destruction: "in the day of Jerusalem"—deliverance, in the day of Judah’s deliverance.

Ob 1:12 But thou shouldest not have looked on the day of thy brother in the day that he became a stranger; neither shouldest thou have rejoiced over the children of Judah in the day of their destruction; neither shouldest thou have spoken proudly in the day of distress.

4. Judah’s reward of faith: "Remember, O Lord."

**Ps 137:8** O daughter of Babylon, who art to be destroyed; happy shall he be, that rewardeth thee as thou hast served us.

The destroyer shall be destroyed They can say it, why not sing it? Their destruction had been abundantly foretold why not sing about it like a Jonah with repentance?

**Ps 137:9** Happy shall he be, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones.

Those who mock the Lord's people will receive more than they desire, to their own confusion: The murder of innocent infants can never be tolerated just like the mixing of emotions with the world in music. The comparisons are found to be soul shaking.

Isa 12:1 And in that day thou shalt say, O LORD, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me.

2 Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for **the LORD JEHOVAH** is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.

3 Therefore **with joy shall ye draw water** out of the wells of salvation.

4 And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted.

5 **Sing unto the LORD**; for he hath done excellent things: this is known **in all the earth**.

6 Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for **great is the Holy One** of Israel in the midst of thee.