Ps 136

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| Fr. Lazarus | Edited | AI | Psalter according 70 | Psalter for prayer | NETS | Brenton | OSB |
| 1 By the rivers of Babylon  we sat down and wept  when we remembered Zion.[[1]](#footnote-1) | 1 (By David) | By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down and we wept, when we remembered Zion. | By the rivers of Babylon—  There we sat down, and wept  when we remembered Zion.[[2]](#footnote-2) | David’s, by Jeremiah. BY the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and we wept, when we remembered Zion. | By the rivers of Babylon—  there we sat down, also wept  when we remembered Sion. | *For David, a Psalm of Jeremias.* By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat; and wept when we remembered Sion. | By David. By the rivers of Babylon,  There we sat and wept  When we remembered Zion. |
| 2 On the willows in Babylon  we hung up our instruments. |  | Upon the willows in its midst we hanged our harps. | 2 We hung up our instruments  on the willows in its midst. | Upon the willows in the midst thereof did we hang our harps. | On the willows in its midst  We hung up our instruments, | We hung our harps on the willows in the midst of it. | Upon the willows in her midst,  We hung up our musical instruments; |
| 3 For there our captors asked us for songs  and our abductors called for a tune, saying:  ‘Sing us some of the songs of Zion.’ |  | For those who led us captive asked us there for words of songs: and they who had taken us there: sing to us a praise of the songs of Zion. | 3 For there our captors asked us for the words of our songs,  and those who had carried us away for a hymn,  “Sing us some of the songs of Zion.” | For there they that had taken us captive asked us for the words of a song, and they that led us away for a melody, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion. | because there our captors  asked us for words of odes,  and those who led us away  for a hymn,  “Sing us some of the odes of Sion!” | For there they that had taken us captive asked of us the words of a song; and they that had carried us away asked a hymn, *saying*, Sing us one of the songs of Sion. | For there our captors asked us for words from our songs,  And those who carried us off said to us,  “Sing us the songs of Zion.” |
| 4 How can we sing the Lord’s song  in a foreign land? |  | How shall we sing the praise of the Lord in a strange land? | 4 How can we sing the Lord’s song  in a foreign land? | How shall we sing the Lord’s song in a strange land? | How could we sing the Lord’s ode  in a foreign land? | How should we sing the Lord’s song in a strange land? | How shall we sing the Lord’s song  In a foreign land? |
| 5 If I forget you, O Jerusalem,  may my right hand be forgotten. |  | If I for­get Jerusalem, I shall forget my right hand. | 5 If I forget you, O Jerusalem,  may my right hand be forgotten! | If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand be forgotten. | If I forget you, O Ierouslem,  may my right hand be forgotten! | If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget *its skill*. | If I forget you, O Jerusalem,  May my right hand be forgotten; |
| 6 May my tongue stick in my throat  if I do not remember you,  if I do not put Jerusalem first[[3]](#footnote-3)  as above all my joy. |  | My tongue shall cleave to my throat if I do not remember you, if I place not Jerusalem first at the beginning of my joy. | 6 May my tongue stick in my throat  if I do not remember you,  if I do not place Jerusalem first,[[4]](#footnote-4)  at the beginning of my joy. | Let my tongue cleave to the back of my throat, if I remember thee not, if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy. | May my tongue stick in my throat,  if I do not remember you,  if I did not set Ierousalem at the beginning of my gladness. | May my tongue cleave to my throat, if I do not remember thee; if I do not prefer Jerusalem as the chief of my joy. | May my tongue be glued to my throat  If I do not remember you,  If I do not prefer Jerusalem  In the beginning of my merriment. |
| 7 Remember, O Lord, against the sons of Edom  the day of the fall of Jerusalem, when they said:  ‘Down with it, down with it, to its very foundations!’ |  | Remember, O Lord, the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem; who said, trash it, trash it, even to its foundation. | 7 Remember, O Lord, the sons of Edom  On the day of [the fall of] Jerusalem, when they said,  “Empty it out! Empty it out!, even to its foundations!” | Remember the children of Edom, O Lord, in the day of Jerusalem, how they said, Down with it, down with it, even to the foundation thereof. | Remember, O Lord, against the sons of Edom,  the day of Ierousalem,  how they said, “Clear out! Clear out!  As long as its foundation is in it!” | Remember, O Lord, the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem; who said, Rase *it*, rase *it*, even to its foundations. | O Lord, remember the sons of Edom  On that day in Jerusalem,  When they were saying, “Empty it out,  Empty it out,  Even to its foundation!” |
| 8 O daughter of Babylon the wretched!  Blessed is he who repays you for what you did to us.  Blessed is he who seizes your children  and dashes them against the rock.[[5]](#footnote-5) |  | O wretched daughter of Babylon, blessed is he who shall reward you the same reward you have given us. | 8 O daughter of Babylon, you wretch!  Blessed is he who will deal with you as you dealt with us! | O daughter of Babylon, thou cursed one, blessed shall he be that shall do unto thee, as thou hast done unto us. | O daughter Babylon, you wretch!  Happy shall he be who will requite you with the requital  with which you requited us! | Wretched daughter of Babylon! blessed shall he be who shall reward thee as thou hast rewarded us. | O wretched daughter of Babylon,  Blessed is he who shall deal with you  As you dealt with us; |
|  |  | Blessed is he who shall seize your little children and bury them beside the rock. Alleluia. | 9 Blessed is he who will seize your infants  and dashes them against the rock.[[6]](#footnote-6) | Blessed is he that shall seize and dash thine infants against a rock. | Happy shall he be who will grab your infants  and dash them against he rock! | Blessed *shall he be* who shall seize and dash thine infants against the rock. | Blessed is he who shall get the upper hand  And dash your infants against the rock. |

1. Jerusalem and Zion are types of the Church, the bride of Christ. ‘Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her’ (Ephes. 5:25f). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Jerusalem and Zion are types of the Church, the bride of Christ. ‘Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her’ (Ephes. 5:25f). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. See footnote on page 170. <See previous footnote> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. See previous footnote. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Babylon signifies the flesh. Blessed is he who subdues it with fasts and deprives it of joys, as it dealt with the soul, and who dashes incipient evil thoughts, while still weak, against the Rock which is Christ (1 Cor. 10:4; Mt. 21:44; Rev. 18). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Babylon signifies the flesh. Blessed is he who subdues it with fasts and deprives it of joys, as it dealt with the soul, and who dashes incipient evil thoughts, while still weak, against the Rock which is Christ (1 Cor. 10:4; Mt. 21:44; Rev. 18). [JS] Fr. Athanasius has “and bury them beside the rock” [↑](#footnote-ref-6)