



➔ Day 16

Scriptural Background: Psa 137

*"1 By the waters of Babylon,
there we sat down and wept,
when we remembered Zion." Ps 137:1.*

Psalm 137 describes the period of Judah's exile in Babylon and confronts us with some of the most poignant imagery in all of poetry. Jerusalem's captors would force the people to sing their worship songs for the Babylonians' entertainment, so that they could revel in mocking their prisoners and boast about triumphing over them in battle (v3). How could the people of God sing such sacred songs in so horrible a setting (v4)? We, too, feel the sting of exile, whether we recognize it as such or not. Our sin has caused us to be driven out of the homeland for which we were made (Gen 3:24), and we are longing for "a better country, a heavenly one" (Heb 11:16). We know the pain of living in a land that pokes and prods at every turn with the message, "you are not home." Tellingly, when Jesus comes, the Gospel writers continually use exile language to describe His work (Mk 1:1-3). He is the One who seeks the lost, binds up the brokenhearted, and brings them Home again.

Prayer:

LORD Jesus, we remember today that this world in its present form is not our true home. Help us not try to gloss over the brokenness that is all around us. In Your mercy let us not be content this Lent to distract ourselves with vain pleasures, comforts, and spiritual sedatives. Teach us to lament the conditions of exile, that we may more truly exult in the joy of Your rescue. For Your Glory we pray. Amen.