

Who will you worship?

What will you fear?

Est 5:9 Haman went out that day happy and in high spirits. But when he saw Mordecai at the king's gate and observed that he neither rose nor showed fear in his presence, he was filled with rage against Mordecai.

How can we sing?

Psa 137:1 By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion.

Psa 137:2 There on the poplars we hung our harps,

Psa 137:3 for there our captors asked us for songs, our tormentors demanded songs of joy; they said, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"

Psa 137:4 How can we sing the songs of the LORD while in a foreign land?

The fall of Jerusalem had been horrific

- Physically
 - Siege and starvation
 - Lam 4:10* With their own hands compassionate women have cooked their own children, who became their food when my people were destroyed.
 - The atrocities of war
 - Rape, the brutal bludgeoning of children, dismembering of pregnant women.
- Spiritually...the city of God, the wall of Jerusalem, His holy temple
- Then a 2700 km march as slaves to Babylon

They hung up their harps

Their instruments of praise

- They still had them
 - Praise was so part of their lives
- They are broken, defeated, tired

When they sat down by the river they were told to sing

'How can we sing...'

- What is there to sing about
- I'm too tired to sing
- I'm too confused to sing

How can we sing in a foreign land

They found themselves in a strange, foreign and pagan land; a waste land.

A place where they had never been...where nothing was familiar

This is certainly an unfamiliar place we find ourselves in

Some times even God seems foreign

We are talking about the praise of God

I have asked the question...where are You Lord?

Where are the gifts of healing, deliverance, miracles, faith

Psa 40:1 I waited patiently for the LORD; He turned to me and heard my cry.

Psa 40:2 He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; He set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.

Psa 40:3 He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the LORD and put their trust in Him.

It's time for a new song...based on His word

1. A song of His goodness and mercy

Lam 3:21 But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:

Lam 3:22 The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end;

Lam 3:23 they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.

2. A song of His sovereignty

Psa 2:4 The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them.

3. A song of His victory

The book of Psalms is a very honest book of peoples feelings and emotions...overwhelmed (clogged), desolate, afflicted, smites, fainteth...

Psa 148:1 Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise Him in the heights above.

Psa 148:2 Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His heavenly hosts...

Psa 149:1 Praise the LORD. Sing to the LORD a new song, His praise in the assembly of His faithful people.

Psa 149:6 May the praise of God be in their mouths and a double-edged sword in their hands,

Psa 150:1 Praise the LORD. Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty heavens.

Psa 150:2 Praise Him for His acts of power; praise Him for His surpassing greatness.

Psa 150:3 Praise Him with the sounding of the trumpet...

Psa 150:6 Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD.

4. A song of His faithfulness

Exodus 34:6