



PSALM 137

ERIN CLIFFORD

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By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept
when we remembered Zion.

There on the poplars
we hung our harps,

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

How can we sing the songs of the Lord

while in a foreign land?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
may my right hand forget its skill.
May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth
if I do not remember you,
if I do not consider Jerusalem
my highest joy.
Remember, Lord, what the Edomites did
on the day Jerusalem fell.

**“Tear it down,” they cried,
“tear it down to its foundations!”
Daughter Babylon, doomed to destruction,
happy is the one who repays you
according to what you have done to us.
Happy is the one who seizes your infants
and dashes them against the rocks.**

PSALM 137

STEP 1

Define Reality

STEP 2

Go Tell Dad

STEP 3

Choose Doubt Not Despair

Structure of a Lament

Psalm 22

An Opening Address

1. An Opening Address

My God my God... (22:1a)

2. A Complaint

Why have you forsaken me? Why are you in so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? (22:1b)

An Opening Address • A Complaint • A Declaration of Trust

3. A Declaration of Trust

Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. (22:3-4)

An Opening Address • A Complaint • A Declaration of Trust • A Petition for Help

4. A Petition for Help

Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and
there is no one to help. (22:11)

An Opening Address • A Complaint • A Declaration of Trust • A Petition for Help • A Vow of Praise

5. A Vow of Praise

From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me. I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you. (22:21 a-22).