

Psalm 137-139, 1 Corinthians 13(New King James Version)

Psalm 137

Longing for Zion in a Foreign Land

¹ By the rivers of Babylon,
There we sat down, yea, we wept
When we remembered Zion.

² We hung our harps
Upon the willows in the midst of it.

³ For there those who carried us away captive asked of us a song,
And those who plundered us *requested* mirth,
Saying, “Sing us *one* of the songs of Zion!”

⁴ How shall we sing the LORD’s song
In a foreign land?

⁵ If I forget you, O Jerusalem,
Let my right hand forget *its skill!*

⁶ If I do not remember you,
Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth—
If I do not exalt Jerusalem
Above my chief joy.

⁷ Remember, O LORD, against the sons of Edom
The day of Jerusalem,
Who said, “Raze *it*, raze *it*,
To its very foundation!”

⁸ O daughter of Babylon, who are to be destroyed,
Happy the one who repays you as you have served us!

⁹ Happy the one who takes and dashes
Your little ones against the rock!

Psalm 138

The LORD’s Goodness to the Faithful

A *Psalm* of David.

¹ I will praise You with my whole heart;
Before the gods I will sing praises to You.

² I will worship toward Your holy temple,
And praise Your name
For Your lovingkindness and Your truth;
For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

³ In the day when I cried out, You answered me,
And made me bold *with* strength in my soul.

⁴ All the kings of the earth shall praise You, O LORD,
When they hear the words of Your mouth.

⁵ Yes, they shall sing of the ways of the LORD,
For great *is* the glory of the LORD.

⁶ Though the LORD *is* on high,
Yet He regards the lowly;
But the proud He knows from afar.

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me;
You will stretch out Your hand
Against the wrath of my enemies,
And Your right hand will save me.

⁸ The LORD will perfect *that which* concerns me;
Your mercy, O LORD, *endures* forever;
Do not forsake the works of Your hands.

Psalm 139

God's Perfect Knowledge of Man

For the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.

¹ O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*.

² You know my sitting down and my rising up;
You understand my thought afar off.

³ You comprehend my path and my lying down,
And are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ For *there is* not a word on my tongue,
But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.

⁵ You have hedged me behind and before,
And laid Your hand upon me.

⁶ *Such* knowledge *is* too wonderful for me;
It is high, I cannot *attain* it.

⁷ Where can I go from Your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from Your presence?

⁸ If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there;
If I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are there*.

⁹ *If* I take the wings of the morning,
And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

¹⁰ Even there Your hand shall lead me,
And Your right hand shall hold me.

¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall^[a] on me,"
Even the night shall be light about me;

¹² Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You,
But the night shines as the day;
The darkness and the light *are* both alike *to You*.

¹³ For You formed my inward parts;
You covered me in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made,^[b]
Marvelous are Your works,
And *that* my soul knows very well.

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You,
When I was made in secret,
And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

¹⁶ Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.
And in Your book they all were written,
The days fashioned for me,
When *as yet there were* none of them.

¹⁷ How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God!
How great is the sum of them!

¹⁸ *If* I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand;
When I awake, I am still with You.

¹⁹ Oh, that You would slay the wicked, O God!
Depart from me, therefore, you bloodthirsty men.

²⁰ For they speak against You wickedly;
Your enemies take *Your name* in vain.^[c]

²¹ Do I not hate them, O LORD, who hate You?
And do I not loathe those who rise up against You?

²² I hate them with perfect hatred;
I count them my enemies.

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart;
Try me, and know my anxieties;

²⁴ And see if *there is any* wicked way in me,
And lead me in the way everlasting.

1 Corinthians 13

The Greatest Gift

¹ Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. ² And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned,^[a] but have not love, it profits me nothing.

⁴ Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never fails. But whether *there are* prophecies, they will fail; whether *there are* tongues, they will cease; whether *there is* knowledge, it will vanish away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part. ¹⁰ But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. ¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

¹³ And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these *is* love.