

I. The State of the Church Militant (vv 1-4)

- A. *By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept* (Heb 11:13-14; Lam 2:10; Psa 56:8; Ezk 1:1; Dan 8:2, 10:2-6)
- B. *When we remembered Zion*
 - 1) As they sat by the rivers of Babylon, they were longing for the river which flows from the city of God (Psa 46:4)
 - 2) Which distinguishes between the Church and Babylon.
 - 3) The mark of the mature Christian is to not be concerned with one's own sufferings as much as a longing for the strength of the Church. (Ex 6:9)
- C. *On the willows there we hung up our lyres*
- D. *For there our captors required of us songs, and our tormentors, mirth* (Pr 14:13; Jn 11:35; Lk 19:41; Acts 20:31; Phil 3:18; Psa 122:7).
- E. *Saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion!*
- F. *How shall we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land?* (Mt 7:6)

II. Christ's Promise To His People (vv 5-6)

- A. *If I forget you, O Jerusalem, —* Notice, the voice has changed. What was the voice of the congregation (*we*), has now turned to the voice of our Saviour (*I*) (Heb 2:12).
- B. *Let my right hand forget its skill!* (Psa 98:1b; 1 Cor 15:17; Ex 2:24; Gen 8:1)
- C. *Let my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you* (1 Cor 15:14; Isa 55:10-11; Rev 11:5; Rev 19:13, 15-16)
- D. *If I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy*
 - 1) In our justification (Eph 2:4-6)
 - 2) In the progress of the Gospel throughout the earth (Eph 1:19-23)
 - 3) In our glorification (Mt 25:33-34)
- E. Further Uses from the Text
 - 1) Here we have the assurance of our forgiveness in Christ.
 - 2) Here we have the assurance of Christ's love for us (Isa 43:4; Song of Songs 4:10)
 - 3) As Christ has remembered us, should we not remember Him? (Phil 3:12b)

III. Christ's Victory Over the World (vv 7-9)

- A. *Remember, O LORD, against the Edomites* (Rom 9:13).
 - 1) *The day of Jerusalem* (Oba 1:11)
 - 2) *How they said, Lay it bare, lay it bare, down to its foundations!* (Oba 1:12, 18).
- B. *O daughter of Babylon, doomed to be destroyed*
 - 1) That Babylon the nation would be destroyed (as it was by the Persians).
 - 2) That Babylon (Rev 18, 11:8).
 - 3) Yet that day of their destruction has not yet come:
 - a) That we are to continue as pilgrims and sojourners (Heb 11:10).
 - b) That vengeance belongs to the Lord and not to man (Pr 16:4; Rom 12:19)
 - c) That the goodness of God is meant to lead sinners to repentance (Rev 18:4).
- C. *Blessed shall he be who repays you with what you have done to us!* (Phil 2:10-11; Oba 1:15)
- D. *Blessed shall he be who takes your little ones and dashes them against the rock!*
 - 1) That this is against not only the wicked, but even their offspring (1 Cor 7:14; Jn 8:44).
 - 2) The blessing promised to the destruction even of these little ones (1 Sam 15:3; Rom 3:10; Eph 2:3).
 - 3) How is this benediction fulfilled? In three ways:
 - a) Through God's temporal judgment upon wicked nations, as well as particularly upon Babylon itself (Dan 2:21a; Gen 15:16).
 - b) Through the eternal judgment of the wicked in hell
 - c) Through conversion of the wicked. (Psa 118:22; 1 Pt 2:8; Rom 16:20, 11:33)
- E. Concluding Uses from the Text
 - 1) God has given this pilgrim song to His Church for His glory, as well as our instruction in faith and obedience.
 - 2) Our sufferings and labours for the Lord are not in vain.
 - 3) We are indeed pilgrims and sojourners, but we are also 'more than conquerors through him who loved us' (Rom 8:37).