

Worshipping God in a Strange Place Part 2!

KJV Psalm 137:4 How shall we sing the LORD'S song in a strange land?

These are indeed strange times and all of us feel like we're in a strange place both naturally and spiritually!

Our inability to come together for corporate worship is causing anxiety, confusion and despair in many people.

But this is **not new! We learned David dealt with it!**

Israel as a nation felt this way when taken captive by Babylon.

This **song** was written at the end of the Babylonian captivity.

Psalm 137:1 By the rivers of Babylon, we sat down and cried as we remembered Zion (the prophetic name for Jerusalem)

2 We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof.

They put up their instruments and refused to worship because they were no longer in Jerusalem, in their safe space and sacred place.

They said, "How can we worship God in a strange land"?

6 If I do not remember thee (Jerusalem), let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy.

They thought they would betray their allegiance to Jerusalem if they worshipped anywhere else.

- **They loved the Promised Land more than the Promisor!**

They loved their culture and way of life more than God who gave it to them, which was why they were in exile in the first place.

They forgot they were to worship God because He's God!

Not because He gave them a special place, but because He made them a special people.

It's the worship of the people that's special, not worship from a place!

Look at what God told Jeremiah to tell the people about living in Babylon, **a strange place.**

GWN Jeremiah 29:4 This is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says to all those who were taken captive from Jerusalem to Babylon:

5 Build houses, and live in them. Plant gardens and eat what they produce.

6 Get married, and have sons and daughters. Find wives for your sons, and let your daughters get married so that they can have sons and daughters. Grow in number there; don't decrease.

7 Work for the good of the city where I've taken you as captives, and pray to the LORD for that city. When it prospers, you will also prosper.

God says to the prophet, tell the people to carry on a normal life in this **strange land**.

Don't stop doing any of the things you did before, even **worship!**

- Keep your **holiness intact** in this strange land!
- Keep your **prayer life intact** in this strange land!
- Keep your **giving life intact** in this strange land!
- Keep your **worshipping life intact** in this strange land!

The land may be strange, but worshipping God isn't strange!

Keep worshipping The One True God, the God your fathers knew!

Worship is the highest activity a person can engage in!

David made singing a crucial part of worship.

Singing The LORD's song is an act of intimacy with God!

The Babylonians wanted them to perform for them, they would not!

Worship is sacred, it's attention **not** given to another!

❖ **The women at the well got that lesson and we should too!**

When Jesus told her, she had **5 husbands and a Boo!**

She didn't care who she was **intimate** with, she wasn't exclusive!

John 4:19 The woman said to Jesus, "I see that you're a prophet!

20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain. But you Jews say that people must worship in Jerusalem."

21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.

Jesus said, **woman a time is coming when were your people worship God and where The Jews worship God will come to an end.**

Jesus said the time is coming when it won't matter were you worship!

Do we really think the worship of God stops because we can't come to church?

Before God created the heavens and the earth, He created beings that worshipped Him, God has never and will never be without worship!

Upon Jesus arrival in Jerusalem when He was come by the Mt. Olives a multitude began praising God and rejoicing.

KJV Luke 19:38 Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.

39 And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples."

40 "I tell you," he replied, "**if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.**"

We'd better not wait until we come back to church to worship God!

We'd better not think our praise is reserved for a building!

We'd better praise Him, for He's is worthy of our praise!

We better speak well of God, if we don't the rocks will!

ESV John 4:23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.

God has **always** been worshipped and He always will be, it's arrogant to think God is **not** being worshipped because we can't enter a building, turn the lights, camera's and instruments on and have fun!