

Week 12 - “Psalm 137 – The God who Promises Salvation”

The Aim of the Session

In recent weeks we have looked at God’s hatred of sin and the reality that this will bring about judgement one day. But this same God is equally overflowing with love and mercy and promises Salvation to those who call on him. The question is whether we want it.

- **Welcome**

What is the best advertising slogan you’ve ever seen? Was it true?

- **Worship**

Read Psalm 111 and list the things the Psalmist praises God for. Use them as the basis for prayers of thanksgiving and pray that God will enable you to experience the reality of verse 10.

- **Word**

- ❖ Why do we make promises?
- ❖ Why do we break promises?
- ❖ Do you find it easier to keep or break a promise? Why?
- ❖ What are the effects of broken promises?
- ❖ Do you believe that God keeps his promises? Always?
- ❖ What effect does that have on your life?

Psalms 90 and 94 looked at God’s hatred of our sin and the judgement that results. Psalm 137 speaks of a trust in God to keep his promise of salvation.

Read Genesis 17:4-11

- What is a Covenant (v1)?
- How big is the promise that God makes about people (vv1,3,8,9)?
- How big is the promise that God makes about land (v8)?
- What is Abraham’s side of the Covenant?

In 597BC, the first group of Jews were sent into exile in Babylon, as the prophets had warned would happen if the people continued to flout the Covenant.

Read Psalm 137:1-4

- Why did they weep when they remembered “Zion” rather than “Jerusalem” (v1)?
- Why did their captors ask for songs of “joy” (v2)?
- Why did that cause so much pain?
- What realisation does this bring about in the Jews?
- What is the problem with being in a foreign land (v4)?

Read Psalm 137:5-9

- What is the Psalmist most afraid of (vv5-6)?
- What would happen if his fears are realised?
- How does this relate to the Covenant with Abraham?
- What do the people need to do in order to return to the Promised Land?
- What does the Psalmist want God to do?

Think back to recent studies ...

- ❖ How great is God's hatred of sin?
- ❖ How does this compare to how we view it?
- ❖ What happens when our sin becomes a form of "exile"?
- ❖ What must our response be?
- ❖ How much must we want it?
- ❖ What is the cost and how great is it?
- ❖ What is God's response?

When God makes a promise, he keeps it. In Jesus, the promise to Abraham was opened up to the whole world – that promise of salvation is ours ... if we want it. The question is "How much do we want it?"

- **Works**

Read the following promises of God:

- God has promised to supply every need we have. "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus". Philippians 4:19.
- God has promised that His grace is sufficient for us. (2 Corinthians 12:9).
- God has promised to never let go of us. "Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present your faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy" (Jude v 24).
- God has promised us victory over death. "For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures," (1 Corinthians 15:3,4). "But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 15:57).
- God has promised that all things work together for good to those who love and serve Him faithfully (Romans 8:28).
- God has promised that those who believe and trust Jesus will be saved. "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38).
- God has promised His people eternal life (John 10:27,28).

God has promised it, and He will deliver!

In response to God's promises

- ❖ What promise would you love to make to God?
- ❖ What promise would you love to make to another person?
- ❖ What promise would you love to make to yourself?



Next Time ...

Psalms: Seeking God Through Honesty and Reality

13 – Psalm 139 "The God who Knows Me Intimately"