

Hang it up.

All we like sheep have gone astray.

Psalm 137:1 By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion.

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

3 For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion.

4 How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?

5 If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning.

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

Bow heads

When you hear the term “Hang your harps upon the willows” that is not the same as hanging it up, throwing in the towel, or giving up. That’s not what is happening here.

The nation of Israel had already been conquered and taken captive.

This was not an act of giving up. They had already done that.

This was a last ditch effort to never forget God. **This was a way to always remember. This was a memorial.**

Willows have long dangling branches. Whenever the wind would blow, the branches would hit the strings of the harps.

Whenever the wind blew from the west toward the east, (from Jerusalem towards Babylon) the wind would carry the faint sound of music from the direction of ...home.

Ring the WIND CHIMES

Do you hear that? Where is that sound coming from? It sounds like it is coming from from Jerusalem.

Then the people would REMEMBER the glory of the LORD and the songs of praise as it used to be. They wept.

The sounds of musical notes did not bring feelings of joy. They brought pain to the heart. Why didn’t we obey God? If we would have obeyed God, we would not be here in captivity.

Remember when we were in Jerusalem and worshipped God in His Glory?

Jesus is a form of a Harp upon the willow...tree. When we hear it, we weep and remember. Why didn’t I obey? I wouldn’t be in this mess if I would have obeyed.

**Lord help us to remember.
In Jesus name amen.**

**Psalm 81:11 But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me.
Psalm 81:12 So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: and they walked in their own counsels.**

Psalm 81:13 Oh that my people had hearkened unto me, and Israel had walked in my ways!

Psalm 81:14 I should soon have subdued their enemies, and turned my hand against their adversaries.

People used to go to church and worship. Many people have left off going to church in these last days.

Why have they not returned?

They need to hear the sound of the “Harp upon the willows. We need to shake the trees with the wind of the Holy Spirit.

They don't have anything to **remind** them of the songs of praise to the LORD our God. We constantly need to be **reminded** because we forget so easily.

Everytime the wind blows they should hear...Jesus loves me this I know. For the Bible tells me so...

They should **remember** and **weep**.

By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, **we wept**, when **we remembered** Zion.

Col 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Eph 4:23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

Psalm 78:35 And they remembered that God was their rock, and the high God their redeemer.

You need to set some good memories of church while you are here.

“Hang **your harps** upon the willows” as a memorial of remembrance at a time when you will need it later.

So when the wind blows (hard times come) your heart strings will sing and you will remember.

Dueteronomy 6:6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

10 And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not,

11 And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full;

12 Then **beware lest thou forget the LORD**, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

Memorize some scripture now. Let it sink in deep so you can remember them when you need them.

Some scripture that help me...

Psalm 73:3 For I was envious at the foolish, **when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.**

Psalm 73:17 **Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.**

Gal 6:9 And let us **not be weary in well doing:** for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

2 Cor 5:10 For we must all appear before the **judgment seat of Christ;** that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Rev 22:12 And, **behold, I come quickly;** and my **reward** is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

Gal 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Psalm 39:4 LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am.

Psalm 90:12 So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

I was born Jan 13 1956. That means I have had so far 21,352 days

If I live to be 70 that means I have only 4,217 days left. And I have no guarantee of having that many days.

Put up gentle reminders around your house. In your car. On your car. At work. In your mind. Hang your harps upon the willows.

In my apartment I have scripture signs everywhere. I need that constant reminding or I will go astray. Scripture signs are like harps upon the willows. They remind me of God.

Scripture sign for the...

Living room

Psalm 101:3 I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.

Bedroom

Psalm 4:8 I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety.

Dining room

1 Tim 6:8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

Kitchen

Isaiah 55:2 Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

Bathroom

Philipians 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

Car

Ephesians 5:16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Not to be used for an excuse for speeding. ;-)

Everytime the wind blows we need to hear, sit, remember, and weep...

Jesus Loves me this I know...

Hang up YOUR harps upon the willows.