

# American Decency Association

PO Box 202, Fremont, MI 49412 231-924-4050 www.americandecency.org

Encouraging Christians to guard their hearts

December 2012

## How shall we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?

By Bill Johnson



Years ago (1978) a guest minister Rev. David R. Mains, then Director of the Chapel of the Air radio broadcast, delivered a powerful message on Psalm 137 at a church in Fremont, Michigan.

Rev. Mains set the scene. God's people had been carried away captive by the Babylonians. The Israelites had not heeded the multiple warnings delivered by the prophets of old. They would not repent of their sins. They continued to worship false idols and committed treacherous acts of wickedness.

God called the Israelites back to Himself. Hearing they would not and did not hear. As God had warned, they were taken captive

and transported miles away from their home in Zion, the Holy City.

“By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. 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. How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land? .... [Psalm 137:1-4, KJV]

God had called out to His people so many times and had repeatedly shown them His mercy. Still they would not turn back. God finally - FINALLY - turned them over to their own depravity and pagan invasion. They were invaded and taken away captives.

As we read in the passage above, they wept openly when they remembered Zion - Jerusalem.

Matthew Henry wrote that, “The abuses which their enemies put upon

them were not enough ...” but they required them to also sing when they were in such a melancholy and miserable state.

These downtrodden, persecuted folks realized their demise. They were in terrible straits. They knew it wasn't going to get better any time soon.

The Rev. Franklin Graham in a recent interview with CBN News said that less than half of those saying they were Evangelicals voted.

I know there were great efforts exerted to energize and stimulate Christians and the local church to get out the vote. Yet, we too saw the clear recalcitrance of some (too many) local church pastors.

One well known church in Grand Rapids is an example. Though significant efforts were exerted to stimulate pastoral leadership to encourage its large congregation to get out and vote and in addition to pass out voters guides, they

[continued on Page 2]

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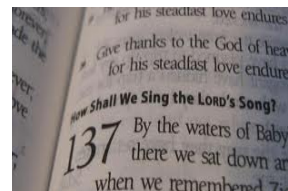
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[continued on Page 2]

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[continued from Page 1]



would not rally their people to exercise their Christian/civil responsibilities.

One political party's platform was staunchly and aggressively pro-abortion and the other party's platform was solidly pro-life. There was a striking contrast between the parties on this issue and on other Biblical issues like same-sex marriage, for example.

One day soon I, and many others, believe this society is going to find itself with terrorists (Islamists) within its borders effectively exerting elevated acts of terrorism in our cities, streets, subways, etc.. This, dear friends, could have been prevented by a change of leadership at the very top.

In the interview with Franklin Graham mentioned above, he makes it clear that Christians have themselves to blame for the outcome, seeing that once again such a sizable percentage of Christians chose not to vote.

Nonetheless, Graham reminds people like you and me of Elijah (who thought he was the only one left) whom God reminded that though he felt in such despair at his lamentable position and condition that there were 7,000 others in the land who also had not bowed their knee to the false idol Baal. (I Kings 19:18)

I don't take the strong usage of these passages lightly. However, I am concerned that our circumstances politically and spiritually are distinct from any other time in our life.

Our nation chose President Barack Obama as president for the next four years. As a result, our Biblical principles are under attack. Those of us who know God's Word to be Truth may well be under attack as well, at least by way of this administration's godless policies. Let me

summarize merely a few of them:

- \* Expanding government - socialism
- \* The assault upon the Christian conscience
- \* The attack upon the sanctity of life - including by way of Obamacare
- \* The assault upon Biblical marriage
- \* The promotion of the LGBT agenda (lesbian, gay, Bisexual, transgender)
- \* The massive d i m i n i s h m e n t (sequestration) of military spending leading to the decline of national security
- \* The placement in high position of ones who are closely affiliated with the extremist terrorist group, The Muslim Brotherhood.

\* The assault upon the First Amendment attempting to rid us of Freedoms of Religion and Speech

**May each of us ask God to reveal His ways for our lives as we seek to be His people in these days of increasing wickedness.**

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[continued from Page 1]



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