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Song of Exile: The Enduring Mystery of Psalm 137 (Hardback)

By David W. Stowe

Oxford University Press Inc, United States, 2016. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. The line that begins Psalm 137 is one of the most lyrical of the Hebrew Bible, and has been used since its genesis to evoke the grief and protest of exiled, displaced, or marginalized communities. The psalm is most directly a product of the Babylonian exile—the roughly fifty-year period after Jerusalem was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar's army and many of its leading Judeans taken northeast into captivity. Despite the psalm's popularity, little has been written about its reception during the more than 2,500 years since that period. In *Babylon Revisited* David Stowe addresses this gap using a wide-ranging, interdisciplinary approach that includes textual analysis, historical overview, and a study of the psalm's place in popular culture. Stowe locates its use in the American Revolution and the Civil Rights movement, and internationally by anti-colonial Jamaican Rastafari and immigrants from Ireland, Korea, and Cuba. He studies musical references ranging from the Melodians' *Rivers of Babylon* to the score in Kazakh film *Tulpan*. Based on numerous interviews with musicians,...


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