

Does God command people to happily bash babies against rocks?

Psalm 137:9. Happy is the one who seizes your infants and dashes them against the rocks.

This is not an order from God to happily kill babies. In fact, it's not an order at all, but a rant from a person. This takes place just after Babylon has destroyed Jerusalem. According to the Bible, a people that was supposed to belong to God's had mostly grown so wicked that God was letting an army desolate the country. God sent the prophet Jeremiah to tell the people that if any of them surrender, they would avoid the horrific attack. However, few listened.

The person who wrote Psalm 137 has just seen his homeland decimated and many people, including babies, killed brutally. This person is also coming to grips with his country being terminated and the surviving people nearly all being taken to the country that just attacked them. As the captives are being led away, the conquerors are telling the captives to do a literal song and dance for them (something this people had previously done to honor God). One of the captives writes that sometime soon, a brutal nation will be happy to do to Babylon what Babylon did to Jerusalem (the verse right before the one quoted above). This includes brutal acts against babies. This may not reflect a perfect Godly attitude by the captive, but does reflect what a grief stricken person might say after experiencing terrible horrors.