

Lamentations, KJV

Chapter 1

Here we are, miserable and sorry

It is over – Judah is in exile (see v. 3) and the land is sad

- 1 How doth **the city** sit solitary,
that was full of people!
how is **she** become as a widow!
she that was great among the nations,
and princess among the provinces,
how is **she** become tributary!
- 2 **She** weepeth sore in the night,
and **her** tears *are* on **her** cheeks:
among all **her** lovers
she hath none to comfort *her*:
all **her** friends have dealt treacherously with **her**,
they are become her enemies.
- 3 **Judah** is gone into captivity because of affliction,
and because of great servitude:
she dwelleth among the heathen,
she findeth no rest:
all **her** persecutors overtook **her**
between the straits.
- 4 The ways of **Zion** do mourn,
because none come to the solemn feasts:
all **her** gates are desolate:
her priests sigh,
her virgins are afflicted,
and **she** *is* in bitterness.
- 5 **Her** adversaries are the chief,
her enemies prosper;
for **the LORD** hath afflicted **her**
for the multitude of **her** transgressions:
her children are gone into captivity
before the enemy.
- 6 And from the **daughter of Zion**
all **her** beauty is departed:
her princes are become like harts
that find no pasture,
and they are gone without strength
before the pursuer.
- 7 **Jerusalem** remembered in the days of **her** affliction and of her miseries
all **her** pleasant things that **she** had in the days of old,
when **her** people fell into the hand of the enemy,

- and none did help **her**:
the adversaries saw **her**,
and did mock at **her** sabbaths.
- 8 **Jerusalem** hath grievously sinned;
therefore **she** is removed:
all that honoured **her** despise **her**,
because they have seen **her** nakedness:
yea, **she** sigheth,
and turneth backward.
- 9 **Her** filthiness *is* in her skirts;
she remembereth not her last end;
therefore **she** came down wonderfully:
she had no comforter.
O LORD, behold **my** affliction:
for the enemy hath magnified *himself*.
- 10 The adversary hath spread out his hand
upon all **her** pleasant things:
for **she** hath seen *that* the heathen
entered into **her** sanctuary,
whom **thou** didst command
that they should not enter into thy congregation.
- 11 All **her** people sigh,
they seek bread;
they have given their pleasant things for meat
to relieve the soul:
see, **O LORD**, and consider;
for **I am** become vile.

I am miserable and it is all because I messed up

- 12 *Is it* nothing to you, all ye that pass by?
behold, and see
if there be any sorrow like unto **my** sorrow,
which is done unto **me**,
wherewith **the LORD** hath afflicted **me**
in the day of his fierce anger.
- 13 From above hath he sent fire into my **bones**,
and it prevaieth against them:
he hath spread a net for **my** feet,
he hath turned **me** back:
he hath made **me** desolate
and faint all the day.
- 14 The yoke of **my** transgressions is bound by his hand:
they are wreathed,
and come up upon **my** neck:
he hath made **my** strength to fall,
the Lord hath delivered **me** into *their* hands,
from whom **I am** not able to rise up.
- 15 **The Lord** hath trodden under foot

- all **my** mighty *men* in the midst of **me**:
he hath called an assembly against **me**
to crush **my** young men:
the Lord hath trodden the virgin,
the daughter of Judah, *as* in a winepress.
- 16 For these *things* **I** weep;
mine eye, mine eye runneth down with water,
because the comforter that should relieve **my** soul
is far from **me**:
my children are desolate,
because the enemy prevailed.
- 17 **Zion** spreadeth forth her hands,
and there is none to comfort **her**:
the LORD hath commanded concerning **Jacob**,
that his adversaries *should be* round about him:
Jerusalem is as a menstruous woman among them.
- 18 The LORD is righteous;
for **I have** rebelled against his commandment:
hear, **I pray** you, all people,
and behold **my** sorrow:
my virgins and **my** young men
are gone into captivity.
- 19 I called for **my** lovers,
but they deceived **me**:
my priests and **mine** elders
gave up the ghost in the city,
while they sought their meat
to relieve their souls.
- 20 Behold, O LORD; for **I am** in distress:
my bowels are troubled;
mine heart is turned within **me**;
for **I have** grievously rebelled:
abroad the sword bereaveth,
at home *there is* as death.
- 21 They have heard that **I** sigh:
there is none to comfort **me**:
all **mine** enemies have heard of **my** trouble;
they are glad that thou hast done *it*:
thou wilt bring the day *that* thou hast called,
and they shall be like unto **me**.
- 22 Let all their wickedness come before **thee**;
and do unto them,
as thou hast done unto **me**
for all **my** transgressions:
for **my** sighs *are* many,
and **my** heart *is* faint.

Chapter 2

This is pretty bad...

The LORD became Jerusalem's enemy

- 1 How hath the Lord covered the daughter of Zion with a cloud in his anger, and cast down from heaven unto the earth the beauty of Israel, and remembered not his footstool in the day of his anger!
- 2 The Lord hath swallowed up all the habitations of Jacob, and hath not pitied: he hath thrown down in his wrath the strong holds of the daughter of Judah; he hath brought them down to the ground: he hath polluted the kingdom and the princes thereof.
- 3 He hath cut off in his fierce anger all the horn of Israel: he hath drawn back his right hand from before the enemy, and he burned against Jacob like a flaming fire, which devoureth round about.
- 4 He hath bent his bow like an enemy: he stood with his right hand as an adversary, and slew all that were pleasant to the eye in the tabernacle of the daughter of Zion: he poured out his fury like fire.
- 5 The Lord was as an enemy: he hath swallowed up Israel, he hath swallowed up all her palaces: he hath destroyed his strong holds, and hath increased in the daughter of Judah mourning and lamentation.
- 6 And he hath violently taken away his tabernacle, as if it were of a garden: he hath destroyed his places of the assembly: the LORD hath caused the solemn feasts and sabbaths to be forgotten in Zion, and hath despised in the indignation of his anger the king and the priest.
- 7 The Lord hath cast off his altar, he hath abhorred his sanctuary, he hath given up into the hand of the enemy the walls of her palaces; they have made a noise in the house of the LORD, as in the day of a solemn feast.

- 8 The LORD hath purposed to destroy the wall of the daughter of Zion: he hath stretched out a line, he hath not withdrawn his hand from destroying: therefore he made the rampart and the wall to lament; they languished together.
- 9 Her gates are sunk into the ground; he hath destroyed and broken her bars: her king and her princes are among the Gentiles: the law is no more; her prophets also find no vision from the LORD.

People in Jerusalem are miserable

- 10 The elders of the daughter of Zion sit upon the ground, and keep silence: they have cast up dust upon their heads; they have girded themselves with sackcloth: the virgins of Jerusalem hang down their heads to the ground.
- 11 Mine eyes do fail with tears, my bowels are troubled, my liver is poured upon the earth, for the destruction of the daughter of my people; because the children and the sucklings swoon in the streets of the city.
- 12 They say to their mothers, Where is corn and wine? when they swooned as the wounded in the streets of the city, when their soul was poured out into their mothers' bosom.

You, Jerusalem, are a shell of your former self

- 13 What thing shall I take to witness for thee? what thing shall I liken to thee, O daughter of Jerusalem? what shall I equal to thee, that I may comfort thee, O virgin daughter of Zion? for thy breach is great like the sea: who can heal thee?
- 14 Thy prophets have seen vain and foolish things for thee: and they have not discovered thine iniquity, to turn away thy captivity; but have seen for thee false burdens and causes of banishment.
- 15 All that pass by

clap their hands at thee; they hiss and wag their head at the daughter of Jerusalem, saying, Is this the city that men call The perfection of beauty, The joy of the whole earth?

- 16 All thine enemies have opened their mouth against thee: they hiss and gnash the teeth: they say, We have swallowed her up: certainly this is the day that we looked for; we have found, we have seen it.

And you need to be repenting to God

- 17 The LORD hath done that which he had devised; he hath fulfilled his word that he had commanded in the days of old: he hath thrown down, and hath not pitied: and he hath caused thine enemy to rejoice over thee, he hath set up the horn of thine adversaries.
- 18 Their heart cried unto the Lord, O wall of the daughter of Zion, let tears run down like a river day and night: give thyself no rest; let not the apple of thine eye cease.
- 19 Arise, cry out in the night: in the beginning of the watches pour out thine heart like water before the face of the Lord: lift up thy hands toward him for the life of thy young children, that faint for hunger in the top of every street.

Hey God, it's getting really bad over there—don't You want to do something?

- 20 Behold, O LORD, and consider to whom thou hast done this. Shall the women eat their fruit, and children of a span long? shall the priest and the prophet be slain in the sanctuary of the Lord?
- 21 The young and the old lie on the ground in the streets: my virgins and my young men are fallen by the sword;

thou hast slain *them* in the day of thine anger;
thou hast killed, *and* not pitied.
22 Thou hast called as in a solemn day
my terrors round about,
so that in the day of the LORD'S anger
none escaped nor remained:
those that I have swaddled and brought up
hath mine enemy consumed.

Chapter 3

The people really seem to understand what they did and why they are where they are and that God is good and righteous and true

The LORD has punished me (not "us")

1 I am the man *that* hath seen affliction by the rod of his wrath.
2 He hath led me, and brought me *into* darkness, but not *into* light.
3 Surely against me is he turned; he turneth his hand *against* me all the day.
4 My flesh and my skin hath he made old; he hath broken my bones.
5 He hath builded against me, and compassed me with gall and travail.
6 He hath set me in dark places, as *they that be* dead of old.
7 He hath hedged me about, that I cannot get out: he hath made my chain heavy.
8 Also when I cry and shout, he shutteth out my prayer.
9 He hath inclosed my ways with hewn stone, he hath made my paths crooked.
10 He *was* unto me *as* a bear lying in wait, *and as* a lion in secret places.
11 He hath turned aside my ways, and pulled me in pieces: he hath made me desolate.
12 He hath bent his bow, and set me as a mark for the arrow.
13 He hath caused the arrows of his quiver to enter into my reins.
14 I was a derision to all my people; *and* their song all the day.
15 He hath filled me with bitterness, he hath made me drunken with wormwood.
16 He hath also broken my teeth with gravel stones, he hath covered me with ashes.
17 And thou hast removed my soul far off from peace: I forgot prosperity.
18 And I said, My strength and my hope is perished from the LORD:

Bridge: I will forever remember what has happened; please remember me.

19 Remembering mine affliction and my misery, the wormwood and the gall.
20 My soul hath *them* still in remembrance, and is humbled in me.
21 This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope.

The LORD is good and good and good

22 *It is of* the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.
23 *They are* new every morning: great *is* thy faithfulness.
24 The LORD *is* my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.
25 The LORD *is* good unto them that wait for him, to the soul *that* seeketh him.
26 *It is* good that *a man* should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.
27 *It is* good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.
28 He sitteth alone and keepeth silence, because he hath borne *it* upon him.
29 He putteth his mouth in the dust; if so be there may be hope.
30 He giveth *his* cheek to him that smiteth him: he is filled full with reproach.
31 For the Lord will not cast off for ever:
32 But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies.
33 For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men.
34 To crush under his feet all the prisoners of the earth,
35 To turn aside the right of a man before the face of the most High,
36 To subvert a man in his cause, the Lord approveth not.
37 Who *is* he *that* saith, and it cometh to pass, *when* the Lord commandeth *it* not?
38 Out of the mouth of the most High proceedeth not evil and good?
39 Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?

We will take ownership for what we have done

40 Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD.
41 Let us lift up our heart with *our* hands unto God in the heavens.
42 We have transgressed and have rebelled: thou hast not pardoned.
43 Thou hast covered with anger, and persecuted us: thou hast slain, thou hast not pitied.
44 Thou hast covered thyself with a cloud, that *our* prayer should not pass through.
45 Thou hast made us *as* the offscouring and refuse in the midst of the people.
46 All *our* enemies have opened their mouths against us.
47 Fear and a snare is come upon us, desolation and destruction.
48 Mine eye runneth down with rivers of water for the destruction of the daughter of my people.
49 Mine eye trickleth down, and ceaseth not, without any intermission,
50 Till the LORD look down, and behold from heaven.

51 Mine eye affecteth mine heart because of all the daughters of my city.
52 Mine enemies chased me sore, like a bird, without cause.
53 They have cut off my life in the dungeon, and cast a stone upon me.
54 Waters flowed over mine head; *then* I said, I am cut off.
55 I called upon thy name, O LORD, out of the low dungeon.
56 Thou hast heard my voice: hide not thine ear at my breathing, at my cry.
57 Thou drewest near in the day *that* I called upon thee: thou saidst, Fear not.

You, O LORD, will avenge my enemies

58 O Lord, thou hast pleaded the causes of my soul; thou hast redeemed my life.
59 O LORD, thou hast seen my wrong: judge thou my cause.
60 Thou hast seen all their vengeance *and* all their imaginations against me.
61 Thou hast heard their reproach, O LORD, *and* all their imaginations against me;
62 The lips of those that rose up against me, and their device against me all the day.
63 Behold their sitting down, and their rising up; I am their musick.
64 Render unto them a recompence, O LORD, according to the work of their hands.
65 Give them sorrow of heart, thy curse unto them.
66 Persecute and destroy them in anger from under the heavens of the LORD.

Chapter 4

Conclusion? V.22 – Judah is no longer in exile (but it's not the last chapter!)

Oh, how the once-great Judah has become devastated and chaotic

- 1 How is the gold become dim!
how is the most fine gold changed!
the stones of the sanctuary are poured out
in the top of every street.
- 2 The precious **sons of Zion**,
comparable to fine gold,
how are **they** esteemed as earthen pitchers,
the work of the hands of the potter!
- 3 Even the sea monsters draw out the breast,
they give suck to their young ones:
the **daughter of my people** *is become* cruel,
like the ostriches in the wilderness.
- 4 The tongue of the sucking **child**
cleaveth to the roof of his mouth for thirst:
the young **children** ask bread,
and no man breaketh *it* unto them.
- 5 **They** that did feed delicately
are desolate in the streets:
they that were brought up in scarlet
embrace dunghills.
- 6 For the punishment of the iniquity of the **daughter of my people**
is greater than the punishment of the sin of Sodom,
that was overthrown as in a moment,
and no hands stayed on her.
- 7 Her **Nazarites** were purer than snow,
they were whiter than milk,
they were more ruddy in body than rubies,
their polishing *was* of sapphire:
- 8 **Their** visage is blacker than a coal;
they are not known in the streets:
their skin cleaveth to their bones;
it is withered, it is become like a stick.
- 9 *They that be slain with the sword*
are better than **they** *that be slain with hunger*:
for these pine away,
stricken through for *want* of the fruits of the field.
- 10 The hands of the pitiful **women**
have sodden their own children:
they were their meat
in the destruction of the **daughter of my people**.

No one thought Jerusalem would ever be taken, but the LORD did it Himself

- 11 **The LORD** hath accomplished **his** fury;
he hath poured out **his** fierce anger,
and hath kindled a fire in **Zion**,
and it hath devoured the foundations thereof.
- 12 The kings of the earth,
and all the inhabitants of the world,
would not have believed that the adversary and the enemy
should have entered into the gates of Jerusalem.
- 13 For the sins of **her** prophets,
and the iniquities of **her** priests,
that have shed the blood of the just
in the midst of **her**,
- 14 **They** have wandered
as blind men in the streets,
they have polluted themselves with blood,
so that men could not touch their garments.
- 15 **They** cried unto them, Depart ye;
it is unclean; depart, depart, touch not:
when **they** fled away and wandered,
they said among the heathen, They shall no more sojourn *there*.
- 16 The anger of **the LORD** hath divided **them**;
he will no more regard **them**:
they respected not the persons of the priests,
they favoured not the elders.

We looked for deliverance (when we were in exile) but no one came to save us

- 17 As for **us**, our eyes as yet
failed for **our** vain help:
in **our** watching we have watched
for a nation *that* could not save **us**.
- 18 They hunt **our** steps,
that **we** cannot go in **our** streets:
our end is near, **our** days are fulfilled;
for **our** end is come.
- 19 **Our** persecutors are swifter
than the eagles of the heaven:
they pursued **us** upon the mountains,
they laid wait for **us** in the wilderness.
- 20 The breath of **our** nostrils,
the anointed of the LORD,
was taken in their pits, of whom **we** said,
Under his shadow we shall live among the heathen.

Judah, your punishment is finally over – but you're next Edom!

- 21 Rejoice and be glad, O **daughter of Edom**,
that dwellest in the land of Uz;
the cup also shall pass through unto thee:
thou shalt be drunken, and shalt make **thyself** naked.
- 22 The punishment of **thine** iniquity is accomplished, O **daughter of Zion**;
he will no more carry **thee** away into captivity:
he will visit **thine** iniquity, O **daughter of Edom**;
he will discover **thy** sins.

Chapter 5

Our lives stink now

This is not our home anymore; we have to toil for anything

- 1 Remember, O LORD, what is come upon **us**:
consider, and behold **our** reproach.
- 2 **Our** inheritance is turned to strangers,
our houses to aliens.
- 3 **We** are orphans and fatherless,
our mothers *are* as widows.
- 4 **We** have drunken our water for money;
our wood is sold unto us.
- 5 **Our** necks *are* under persecution:
we labour, *and* have no rest.
- 6 **We** have given the hand *to* the Egyptians,
and to the Assyrians, to be satisfied with bread.
- 7 **Our** fathers have sinned, *and are* not;
and **we** have borne their iniquities.
- 8 Servants have ruled over **us**:
there is none that doth deliver **us** out of their hand.
- 9 **We** gat **our** bread with *the peril of* **our** lives
because of the sword of the wilderness.
- 10 **Our** skin was black like an oven
because of the terrible famine.

Our people are treated awfully

- 11 They ravished the women in **Zion**,
and the maids in the cities of **Judah**.
- 12 **Princes** are hanged up by their hand:
the faces of **elders** were not honoured.
- 13 They took the **young men** to grind,
and the **children** fell under the wood.
- 14 The **elders** have ceased from the gate,
the **young men** from their musick.

We are depressed now

- 15 The joy of **our** heart is ceased;
our dance is turned into mourning.
- 16 The crown is fallen *from* **our** head:
woe unto **us**, that **we** have sinned!
- 17 For this **our** heart is faint;
for these *things* **our** eyes are dim.

Third person; this belongs like after verse 14, not here

- 18 Because of the mountain of **Zion**, which is desolate,
the foxes walk upon it.

You are wonderful, God...

- 19 Thou, **O LORD**, remainest for ever;
thy throne from generation to generation.

...But why do you still hate us? Or do you?

- 20 Wherefore dost **thou** forget **us** for ever,
and forsake **us** so long time?
- 21 Turn **thou** **us** unto **thee**, **O LORD**, and **we** shall be turned;
renew **our** days as of old.
- 22 But **thou** hast utterly rejected **us**;
thou art very wroth against **us**.