

**The LAMENTATIONS
OF JEREMIAH LAMENTATIONS 1**

Jerusalem has become a widow; Judah has become

stripped captives; she is filled with religious filthiness

CHAPTER 1

1 How does the city sit solitary that was full of people! She has become as a widow! She was great among the peoples. Her chief rulers have become under forced labor among the provinces!

2 Weeping, she weeps in the night, and her tears *are* upon her cheeks; there exists none to comfort her among all her lovers; all her friends have dealt covertly with her; they are become those who hate her.

3 Judah *has become* stripped captives because of being looked down on with harshness and because of *the* abundance of laborious work; she dwells among the people; she finds no place to settle down; all who ran after her with hostile intent reach her between the straits.

4 The ways of Zion mourn because none comes to the appointed feasts; all her gates are a stunned devastation; her priests sigh, her virgins grieve, and she *is in* bitterness.

5 Her oppressors are the head; those who hate her are at peace because Jehovah has grieved her for the abundance of her transgressions; her nursing babies are walked into captivity before the face of the oppressor.

6 And all her magnificence has gone out from the daughter of Zion; her chief rulers have become like male deer who find no pasture, and they have walked without power before the face of

him who runs after them with hostile intent.

7 In the days of her being looked down on with harshness and of her being an outcast Jerusalem remembered all her pleasant things that were in the days of old when her people fell into the hand of the oppressor and there existed none to surround her with help; the oppressors saw her; they laughed at her Sabbaths.

8 Jerusalem sinning, has sinned; therefore she is removed; all who glorified her heavily shake their head at her because they have seen her nakedness; yes, she sighs, and turns backward.

9 Her religious filthiness *is* in her skirts; she does not remember her last end, and she came down miraculously; there existed no comforter for her. Oh Jehovah, see my being looked down on with harshness, because he who hates me has made himself great.

10 The oppressor has spread out his hand upon all her delightful things because she has seen the peoples enter into her sanctuary whom you commanded not to enter into your congregation.

11 All her people sigh; they seek food; they have given their valuables for food to turn back the soul *to within them*;¹ Oh Je-

¹ 1:11 to turn back the soul *to within them*, that is to turn back the departure of their soul from death.

LAMENTATIONS 1-2 *Jehovah has grieved me in the day of his burning nostrils*

hovah, see and look intently; I am worthless.

12 *Is it* nothing to you, all you who cross over by the way? Look intently, and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow, which is thoroughly effected toward me, with which Jehovah has grieved *me* in the day of his burning nostrils.

13 He has sent fire into my bones from above, and it treads them down; he has spread out a net for my feet; he has turned me backward; he has given me *to be* a stunned devastation, sick all day.

14 The yoke of my transgressions is bound by his hand; they are intertwined and come up upon my neck; he has caused my power to totter weak legged; the Lord has given me into their hands; I am not able to rise up.

15 The Lord has weighed out all my mighty ones in the midst of me; he has called an appointed meeting against me to crush my youth; the Lord has trodden the virgin daughter of Judah *as* in a winepress.

16 I weep for these; my eye, my eye runs down with water because the comforter who should turn back my soul is widely distanced from me; my children are devastated because he who hates me has prevailed.

17 Zion spreads out her hands; there exists none to comfort her; Jehovah has commanded concerning Jacob *that* his oppressors be all around him; Jerusalem is as a menstrous woman among
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them.

18 Jehovah *is* righteous, because I am bitter against his mouth; attentively hear, please, all people, and behold my sorrow; my virgins and my youth have walked into captivity.

19 I called for my lovers; they deceived me; my priests and my elders expired in the city because they sought their food to turn back their souls *to within them*. Note 1:11.

20 See, Oh Jehovah, because to me *is* oppression; my insides are fermented; my heart is turning over within me, because being bitter, I am bitter; outside the sword bereaves *parents of their children*; in the house, death.

21 They have attentively heard that I sigh; there exists none to comfort me; all those who hate me have attentively heard my evil; they rejoice that you have done *it*; you will bring the day you have called out, and they shall be like me.

22 Let all their evil come before your face and glean²² them as you have gleaned me for all my transgressions, because my sighs are many and my heart is sick.

CHAPTER 2

1 How has the Lord covered the daughter of Zion with darkness with his *burning* nostrils! He has thrown down the splendor of Israel from the heavens to the earth, and has not re-

²² 1:22 glean, *atal*, to glean after harvest, to clean up the parts missed in harvest, to clean out every scattered piece. The phrase is identical to our colloquialism, to clean up on someone.

Jehovah burned against Jacob like a flaming fire

membered his footstool in the day of his *burning* nostrils!

2 The Lord has swallowed up and has not spared in pity all the homes of Jacob; he has pulled down the fortifications of the daughter of Judah in his rage; he has laid his hand upon them bringing *them* down to the earth; he has polluted the kingdom and their chief rulers.

3 He has cut down all the horn of Israel with his burning nostrils; he has turned back his right hand from before the face of him who hates him, and he burned against Jacob like a flaming fire, devouring all around.

4 He has bent his bow like one oppressing him; he stationed himself with his right hand as an oppressor and fatally struck all who were pleasant to the eye in the tent of the daughter of Zion; he poured out his heat like fire.

5 The Lord was as one who hated *us*; he has swallowed up Israel, he has swallowed up all her citadels; he has destroyed his fortifications and has increased lamentation and groaning in the daughter of Judah.

6 And he has violently taken away his tabernacle as if it were of a garden; he has destroyed his appointed meetings; Jehovah has caused the appointed meetings and Sabbaths to be forgotten in Zion, and has scorned the king and the priest in the rage of his nostrils.

7 The Lord has pushed aside his altar; he has abhorred his sanctuary; he has shut up the walls of

LAMENTATIONS 2

her citadels into the hand of the one hating her; they have given a noise in the house of Jehovah, as in the day of an appointed meeting.

8 Jehovah has calculated to destroy the wall of the daughter of Zion; he has stretched out a line; he has not turned back his hand from swallowing; and he caused the rampart and the wall to mourn; together they drooped.

9 Her gates are sunk to the earth; he has caused her bars to be broken and lost; her king and her chief rulers are among the peoples; there exists no law; also her prophets find no vision from Jehovah.

10 The elders of the daughter of Zion sit still upon the earth; they have brought up dust upon their heads; they have girded themselves with sackcloth; the virgins of Jerusalem hang down their heads to the earth.

11 My eyes are ended from tears; my insides are fermented; my liver is poured upon the earth for the break of the daughter of my people, because the infants¹¹ and the nursing babies languish in the streets of the city.

12 They say to their mothers, Where *is* grain and wine? When they languished as the polluted in the streets of the city, when their soul was poured out into the bosom of their mothers.

¹¹ 2:11 infants and nursing babies, *owleel*, those sucking milk, and *yanaq*, to suck or be nursed. They are synonyms meaning the same thing.

LAMENTATIONS 2

All who cross by on the way clap their palms in derision

13 What do I testify to you? To what shall I compare you, Oh daughter of Jerusalem? How shall I level *things* out to you and comfort you, Oh virgin daughter of Zion? Because your break *is* great like the sea; who can heal you?

14 Your prophets have gazed at visions of ruin and plastered it over for you, and they have not revealed against you your crookedness to turn back your captivity, and have gazed at visions of rising ruins and seductions for you.

15 All who cross by on the way clap their palms *in derision* at you; they hiss and wag their head at the daughter of Jerusalem, *saying*, Is this the city *about which* it was said, The Perfection of beauty, The joy of the whole earth?

16 All those who hate you have opened their mouth against you; they hiss and grate their teeth; they say, We have swallowed her up: surely this is the day for which we bound ourselves in hope; we have found *it*; we have seen *it*.

17 Jehovah has done what he planned; he has fulfilled his saying that he had commanded in the days of old; he has pulled down, and has not spared in pity; and he has caused him who hates you to rejoice over you, he has raised up the horn of your oppressors.

18 Their heart shrieked to the Lord, Oh wall of the daughter of Zion, let tears run down like a
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stream day and night; do not give yourself rest; do not let the daughter of your eye be still.

19 Rise up! Shout out in the night; in the beginning of the night watches pour out your heart like water before the face of the Lord; lift up to him your palms for the soul of your babies who languish for hunger in the head of every street.

20 Oh Jehovah, see and look intently at whom you have gleaned like this. Lo, shall the women eat their fruit, *their own* nursing babies? Lo, shall the priest and the prophet be fatally struck in the sanctuary of the Lord? See Note 1:22.

21 The young and the old lie down on the earth in the streets; my virgins and my youth are fallen by the sword; you have fatally struck them in the day of your *burning* nostrils; you have slaughtered, not sparing in pity.

22 You have called out my terrors all around as in a day of appointed meeting, and none shall be a refugee nor a survivor in the day of the nostrils of Jehovah; the one who hates me has consumed those whom I have nursed and brought up.

CHAPTER 3

1 I *am* the mighty man who has seen affliction by the branch of his wrath.

2 He has led me, and walked *me* into darkness, and not into light.

3 Surely he has turned back against me; he turns his hand all the day.

4 He has caused my flesh and my skin to fail; he has broken my bones.

5 He has built against me, and violently struck me with poison and wearisome labor.

6 He has set me in darkness, as the dead of old.

7 He has walled me about, and I cannot get out; he has made my fetter heavy.

8 Also when I shriek and call for help he stops out my prayer.

9 He has walled my ways with cut stone; he has crooked my paths.

10 He *was* to me a bear lying in wait, a lion in secret places.

11 He has turned my ways aside and torn me in pieces; he has put me a stunned devastation.

12 He has bent his bow and stationed me as in prison for the arrow.

13 He has caused the arrows of his quiver to enter into my kidneys.

14 I was a derision to all my people, their music all the day.

15 He has satiated me with bitterness; he has quenched my thirst *with* wormwood.

16 And he has crushed my teeth with gravel; he has treaded me down with ashes.

17 And you have removed my soul from peace; I forget good.

18 And I said, My confidence and my expectation have been lost from Jehovah,

19 Remembering my being looked down on with harshness and my persecution, the wormwood and the poison.

20 Remembering, my soul remembers, and sinks within me.

21 I turn this back to my heart; therefore I have hope.

22 *It is of the* mercies of Jehovah that we are not finished because his compassions have not ceased.

23 *They are* new every dawn; your faithfulness *is* abundant.

24 My soul says, Jehovah *is* my allotment, therefore I will hope in him.

25 Jehovah *is* good to them who bind themselves in expectation for him, to the soul who treads seeking him.

26 It is good when one twists himself around and quietly waits for the salvation of Jehovah.

27 *It is* good for a mighty man that he bears the yoke in his youth.

28 He sits alone and is still, because he has borne it upon him.

29 He gives his mouth *to be* in the dust, if perhaps there may exist a cord *of hope*.

LAMENTATIONS 3

Though he cause grief, yet he will have compassion

30 He gives his cheek to him that strikes him; he is filled full with disgrace,

31 Because the Lord will not reject forever,

32 But though he cause grief, yet he will have compassion according to the abundance of his mercies,

33 Because he does not look down with harshness with heart, and does not grieve the children of men,

34 To crush all the prisoners of the earth under his feet,

35 To bend away the judgment of a mighty man before the face of the Most High.

36 The Lord will not see the twisting of a man in his controversy.

37 Who is this *who* says, And it shall be, when the Lord does not command it?

38 Evil and good will not go out of the mouth of the Most High?

39 Why does a living man complain, a mighty man, for his sins?

40 We search and intimately examine our ways, and turn back to Jehovah.

41 We lift up our heart on our palms to God in the heavens.

42 We have broken away and have been bitter; you have not forgiven.

43 You have entwined yourself with your nostrils and run after us with hostile intent; you have fatally struck; you have not spared in pity.

44 You have entwined yourself in a cloud, that our prayer should not cross over to you.

45 You have put us as swept trash and refuse in the midst of the people.

46 All those who hate us have opened their mouths against us.

47 Fear and a pit is upon us, desolation and breaking.

48 Streams of water run down my eye for the breaking of the daughter of my people.

49 My eye flows and cannot not remain silent; there exists no relaxation

50 Until Jehovah leans out to peer and see from the heavens.

51 My eye gleans my heart because of all the daughters of my city.

52 Those who hate me, hunting, have hunted me without cause to catch me like a little bird.

53 They have pulled up my life by the roots in the pit, and thrown a stone upon me.

54 Waters flowed over my head; I said, I am cut off.

55 I called upon your name, Oh Jehovah, out of the depths of the pit.

56 You have attentively heard my voice; Do not hide your ear at my breathing, at my call for help.

57 You drew near in the day I called upon you; you said, Do not fear.

The hands of the compassionate women have boiled their own offspring **LAMENTATIONS 4**

58 Oh Lord, you have defended the controversies of my soul; you have redeemed my life.

59 Oh Jehovah, you have seen my oppression; judge my judgment.

60 You have seen all their vengeance, all their devices against me.

61 You have attentively heard their disgrace, Oh Jehovah, and all their devices against me;

62 The lips of those who rose up against me, and their murmuring against me all the day.

63 Look intently at their sitting down and their rising up; I am their music.

64 Turn back to them a retribution, Oh Jehovah, according to the work of their hands.

65 Give them a hardening of heart, your curse to them.

66 Run after them with hostile intent, and desolate them in anger from under the heavens of Jehovah.

CHAPTER 4

1 How is the gold joined *with other metals*, the good pure gold altered! The stones of the sanctuary are poured out as heaps in the head of every street.

2 The precious children of Zion, weighed out as pure gold, how are they calculated as pottery vases, the work of the hands of the potter!

3 Even the sea monsters pull at the breast; they give suck to their young ones; the daughter of my people *has become* fierce, like the ostriches in the

wilderness.

4 The tongue of the sucking child clings to the roof of his mouth for thirst; the nursing children ask for food; there exists none to spread out to them.

5 They who ate delicacies are stunned in the outdoors; they who were brought up in scarlet embrace rubbish heaps.

6 And the crookedness of the daughter of my people is greater than the sin of Sodom, that was overthrown as in a wink and no hands twisted around her.

7 Her Nazirites were purer than snow; they were whiter than milk; they were more flushed with blood in bone than red corals; their cutting *was like* a sapphire;

8 Their outline is darker than blackness; they are not recognized outdoors; their skin clings upon their bones; it is ashamed in confusion; it has become like wood.

9 Better are they who are polluted by the sword than they who are polluted by hunger, for these flow away, stabbed with starvation for lack of the produce of the field.

10 The hands of the *formerly* compassionate women have boiled their own offspring; they were their cut up food in the breaking up of the daughter of my people.

11 Jehovah has ended his heat; he has poured out his burning nostrils, and has kindled a fire in Zion, and it has devoured her foundations.

LAMENTATIONS 5 *The oppressor entered the gates for the sins of her prophets, her priests*

12 The kings of the earth, all the dwellers of the inhabited earth, would not have believed that the oppressor and he who hated her would have entered into the gates of Jerusalem.

13 For the sins of her prophets, the crookednesses of her priests who have poured out the blood of the righteous in her midst,

14 They have wandered blind in the outdoors; they have polluted themselves with blood, so that none could touch their garments.

15 Depart! Unclean! They called out to them. Depart! Depart! Do not touch! Because they flew away and wandered. They said among the peoples, They shall lodge no more.

16 The face of Jehovah has allotted them; he will no more look intently at them; they do not lift the faces of the priests; and they do not stoop down in grace to the elders.

17 Again, our eyes are ended on account of our vain help; in our leaning out to peer we have leaned out to peer toward a people who could not save *us*.

18 They hunt our steps, walking outdoors; our being chopped off has approached; our days are fulfilled because our being chopped off has come.

19 Those who run after us with hostile intent are more light footed than the eagles of the heavens; they flamed out after us upon the mountains; they lurked for us in the wilderness.

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20 The spirit of our nostrils, the anointed of Jehovah, was captured in their pitfalls, of whom we said, We shall live under his shadow among the peoples.

21 Rejoice and be joyful, Oh daughter of Edom, who dwells in the land of Uz; also the cup shall cross over upon you; you shall be drunk and shall be naked.

22 Your crookedness is complete, Oh daughter of Zion; he will no more carry you away as stripped captives; he will visit your crookedness, Oh daughter of Edom; he will uncover your sins upon you.

CHAPTER 5

1 Oh Jehovah, remember what is upon us; look intently and see our disgrace.

2 Our inheritance is turned over to strangers, our houses to aliens.

3 We are orphans, and there exists to us no fathers; our mothers *are* as widows.

4 We drank our water for silver; our wood comes to us by purchase.

5 We are pursued on our necks with hostile intent; we gasp in exhaustion, and *there is* no rest to us.

6 We have given a hand *to* the Egyptians; *also to* the Assyrians, to be filled with food.

7 Our fathers have sinned and are not; and we have borne their crookednesses.

8 Servants have ruled over us; there is none who breaks us out of their hand.

9 We brought our food in peril of our souls before the face of the sword of the wilderness.

10 Our skin was wrinkled like a firepot before the face of the violent heat of hunger.

11 They oppressed the women in Zion, the virgins in the cities of Judah.

12 Chief rulers are hanged up by their hand; the faces of elders were not honored.

13 They lifted the youth to grind, and the children tottered weak legged under the wood.

14 The elders have ceased from the gate, the youth from their music.

15 The delight of our heart is ceased; our dance is turned into lamentation.

16 The crown of our head has fallen; woe now to us because we have sinned!

17 Our heart is sick over this; our eyes are dim over these.

18 The foxes walk upon the mountain of Zion which *is* a stunned devastation.

19 Oh Jehovah, you dwell forever; your throne, from generation to generation.

20 Why do you forget us forever, forsaking us such a long day?

21 Turn us back to you, Oh Jehovah, and we shall be turned back; renew our days as of old,

22 Unless despising, you have despised us; you have burst out in rage against us exceedingly.

LAMENTATIONS