

## The LAMENTATIONS of Jeremiah

### Lamentations 1

*The miserable state of Jerusalem by reason of sin.*

1 ¶ How alone sits the city *that was* full of people! She has become like a widow, *one* great among the nations; a noblewoman among the provinces has become a payer of tribute.

2 She bitterly weeps in the night, and her tears *are* on her cheeks. She has no *one* out of all the ones loving her. All her friends dealt deceitfully with her; they became enemies to her.

3 Judah went captive from affliction, and from great slavery. She dwells among the nations; she finds no rest. All her pursuers have overtaken her between the straits.

4 The roads of Zion *are* in mourning without *any* going to the appointed *feasts*. All her gates are laid desolate; her priests *are* groaning, her virgins *are* afflicted; and she *is in* bitterness.

5 Her oppressive *ones* have become as chief; her enemies are at ease. For Jehovah has afflicted her for the multitude of her transgressions. Her children have gone, captive before *the* oppressive *ones*.

6 And from the daughter of Zion all her splendor has gone out. Her rulers have become like bucks; they find no pasture; and they have gone without strength before the pursuer.

7 *In the* days of her affliction and her wanderings, Jerusalem remembers all her desirable things from previous days in the falling of her people into the hand of the oppressive *one*, and there is no ally for her. The oppressive *ones* saw her; they laughed at her annihilation.

8 Sinning Jerusalem has sinned; on account of this *she* has become *as one* impure. All *the* ones knowing her despise her, for they saw her nakedness. Also, she groans and turns backward.

9 Her uncleanness *is* in her skirts. She did not remember her end and has gone

down wonderfully. She had no comforter. O Jehovah, see my affliction, for the enemy has magnified *himself*.

10 The oppressive *one* has spread out his hand on all her desirable things. Indeed, she has seen the nations enter into her holy place, whom You commanded *that* they not enter into Your assembly.

11 All her people sigh from seeking bread. They gave their desirable things for food to bring back the soul. See, O Jehovah, and look on *me*, for I have become vile.

12 ¶ *Is it* nothing to you, all who pass by? Behold, and see if there is *any* sorrow like my sorrow which is done to me, with which Jehovah has afflicted *me* in the day of His burning anger.

13 From on high He has sent fire into my bones and subdued them. He spread a net for my feet; He has turned me back; He gave me desolation; all the days *I* faint.

14 The yoke of my transgressions is bound by His hand, they intertwine, they rise on my neck. He caused my strength to stumble. The Lord gave me into *their* hands. I am not able to rise up.

15 The Lord has trampled all my mighty *ones* in my midst. He called a gathering against me to crush my young men. *As* a winepress, the Lord trod the virgin daughter of Judah.

16 On account of these I weep; my eye, my eye brings down water, because *one* comforting *who could be* bringing back my soul is far from me. My sons are desolated because the enemy prevails.

17 Zion spreads forth her hands; there is not *one* comforting to her; Jehovah has commanded concerning Jacob *that* his oppressive *one should be* round about him. Jerusalem has become as an impurity among them.

18 Jehovah *is* righteous, for I rebelled against His mouth. All peoples, I pray, hear and see my sorrow. My virgins and my young men went into exile.

19 I called to *ones* loving me; they deceived me. My priests and my elders expired in the city, while they sought food for them to bring back their soul.

20 See, O Jehovah, for distress *is* to me. My bowels ferment; my heart is turned over within me; for rebelling I have rebelled. On the outside the sword be-reaves; in the house *it is* as death.

21 They hear that I groan; *there is no one* comforting for me. All my enemies have heard my evil; they rejoice that You have done *it*. You will bring the day *that* You have called, and they shall be like me.

22 Let all their evil come before You; and do to them as You have done to me for all my transgressions. For my groans *are* many, and my heart *is* faint.

## Lamentations 2

1 Jeremiah laments the misery of Jerusalem.

20 He complains to Jehovah.

1 ¶ How the Lord has clouded over the daughter of Zion in His anger! He cast the beauty of Israel down from the heavens to the earth, and did not remember His footstool in the day of His wrath.

2 The Lord swallowed up all of Jacob's dwelling-places, *and* did not pity. In His wrath He has broken down the strongholds of the daughter of Judah. He made *them* touch to the earth. He has defiled the kingdom and its rulers.

3 He cut off all the horn of Israel in *the* heat of His anger. He has turned back His right hand from the face of the enemy, and He burned in Jacob as a flaming fire; it consumes round about.

4 He trod His bow like an enemy, *and* set His right hand like an oppressive *one*; and killed all *who were* desirable to the eye in the tent of the daughter of Zion. He poured out His fury like fire.

5 The Lord was like an enemy; He swallowed up Israel; He swallowed up all his fortresses *and* destroyed his strongholds; and He increased mourning and weeping in the daughter of Judah.

6 And He violated his pavilion like a garden *and* destroyed his appointed meeting-places. Jehovah made appointed meeting-places and sabbaths *to be* forgotten in Zion,

and He rejected king and priest in the fury of His anger.

7 The Lord has cast off His altar; He rejected the holy place. He has delivered the walls of her fortresses into the hand of the enemy. They gave a noise in Jehovah's house, as a day of meeting.

8 Jehovah devised 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 made rampart and wall lament; they languish together.

9 Her gates have sunk in the earth, He made perish and shattered her bars. Her kings and her rulers *are* among the nations. The Law is not. Also her prophets have not found a vision from Jehovah.

10 ¶ They sit on the ground; the elders of Zion's daughters *are* silent. They made dust go up on their heads, they gird on sack-cloths. The virgins of Jerusalem let their heads go down to the ground.

11 And my eyes *are* at an end with tears, my bowels ferment; my liver is poured on the ground for the ruin of the daughter of my people, in the fainting of children and sucklings in the broad *places* of the city.

12 They say to their mothers, Where *are* grain and wine? In their fainting, *they are* like the wounded in the plazas of the city, in their pouring out their lives to their mothers' bosom.

13 What can I testify for you? *To* what will I compare you, O daughter of Jerusalem? *To* what shall I liken you that I may comfort you, O virgin daughter of Zion? For your breaking *is* great like the sea! Who can heal you?

14 Your prophets have visioned vanity and foolishness for you; and they have not revealed your iniquity in order to turn back your captivity. Yea, they visioned for you burdens of vanity and seductions.

15 All who pass by clap *their* palms at you. They hiss and wag their head at the daughter of Jerusalem, *saying*, Is this the city which they called the perfection of beauty, the joy of all the earth?

16 All your enemies have opened their mouth against you; they hiss and gnash the teeth; they say, We have swallowed up.

Surely this *is* the day for which we waited; we have found; we have seen.

17 Jehovah has done *that* which He purposed; He fulfilled His Word which He commanded from days of earliest time. He has dashed and not pitied. And He made the enemy to rejoice over you; He raised the horn of your oppressive *ones*.

18 Their heart cried to the Lord. O wall of the daughter of Zion, let tears go down like a torrent by day and by night; do not give relief to yourself; let not the daughter of your eye rest.

19 Rise up, cry out in the night at the head of the watches; pour out your heart like waters before the face of the Lord. Lift up your palms to Him for the life of your children *who are* faint with hunger at the head of every outside place.

20 See, O Jehovah, and look! To whom have you done thus? Should women eat their fruit, children of tender care? Should priest and prophet be killed in the holy place of the Lord?

21 Young and old lie on the ground of the outside places. My virgins and my young men have fallen by the sword. You have killed in the day of Your anger. You have killed, You have not pitied.

22 You have called my terrors round about, as in a day of appointed meeting; and there was not a fugitive or a survivor in the day of the anger of Jehovah. *Those* whom I have nursed and multiplied, my enemy has consumed.

### Lamentations 3

*1 The faithful bewail their calamities. 22 By the mercies of Jehovah they nourish their hope.*

*55 They pray for deliverance.*

1 ¶ I, the man, have seen affliction by the rod of His wrath.

2 He led me and made *me* go in darkness and not light.

3 Surely He turned against me; He turns His hand all the day.

4 He has wasted my flesh and my skin. He has shattered my bones.

5 He built against me and has put around *me* bitterness and hardship.

6 He has made me live in dark places like the dead of old.

7 He walled around me and I cannot go out; He has made heavy my bronze *chain*.

8 Also, when I cry out and shout for help, He shuts out my prayer.

9 He walled up my ways with cut stone; my paths are crooked.

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

11 He has turned aside my ways and torn me to pieces; He made me desolate.

12 He has trod His bow and set me up as a mark for the arrow.

13 He caused the sons of His quiver to enter into my kidneys.

14 I was a mockery to all my people, their song all the day.

15 He has filled me with bitterness *and* made me drunk *with* wormwood.

16 And He broke my teeth with gravel; He has covered me in the ashes.

17 And You cast off my soul from peace; I have forgotten goodness.

18 And I said, My strength and my hope have perished from Jehovah.

19 Remember my affliction and my straying, *as* wormwood and bitterness.

20 Remembering, my soul remembers and bows down on me.

21 I return this to my heart; therefore I hope.

22 *It is by* the kindnesses of Jehovah that we are not consumed, for His mercies are not ended.

23 *They are* new by mornings; great *is* Your faithfulness.

24 Jehovah *is* my portion, says my soul., therefore I shall hope to Him.

25 Jehovah *is* good to those waiting on Him, to the soul seeking Him.

26 *It is* good that he hopes for the salvation of Jehovah, even *in* silence.

27 *It is* good for a man that he bear a yoke in his youth.

28 He sits alone and is silent, for He laid *it* on him.

29 He puts his mouth in the dust, if perhaps there is hope.

30 He gives *his* cheek to the *One* smiting him; he is filled with reproach.

31 For the Lord will not cast off forever.

32 For if He causes grief, He will have pity according to His many kindnesses.

33 For He does not afflict from His heart,  
and grieves the sons of man,

34 to crush all the prisoners of earth under  
His feet,

35 to turn aside the judgment of a man  
before the face of the Most High,

36 to subvert a man in his cause. *This*, the  
Lord does not see.

37 ¶ Who *is* this who speaks, and it occurs,  
*though* the Lord does not command *it*?

38 *Both* the evil and the good do not go  
out from the mouth of the Most High.

39 What? Should mankind complain, living  
man, because of his sins?

40 Let us search and examine our ways,  
and turn back to Jehovah.

41 Let us lift up our heart *and* palms to  
God in Heaven.

42 ¶ We have transgressed and rebelled;  
You, You have not forgiven.

43 You have wrapped Yourself with anger  
and pursued us; You have slain; You have  
not pitied.

44 You have covered Yourself with a cloud,  
from *any* prayer passing through.

45 You have set us *as* sweepings and garbage  
in the midst of the peoples.

46 All our enemies have opened their  
mouths against us.

47 Dread and a pit is ours, devastation  
and ruin.

48 Streams of water go down from my  
eye for the ruin of the daughter of my  
people.

49 My eye flows out and does not cease,  
from there not being *any* ceasing,

50 until Jehovah shall look down and see  
from Heaven.

51 My tear thrusts *down* to my soul, from  
all the daughters of my city.

52 Hunting the hunter has hunted me  
without cause like a bird.

53 They have cut off my life in the pit,  
and *they* threw a stone at me.

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

55 ¶ I called on Your name, O Jehovah,  
from the lowest pit.

56 You have heard my voice; do not hide  
Your ear at my relief, at my cry for help.

57 You came near in the day I called You;  
You said, Do not fear!

58 O Lord, You contended for the causes  
of my soul; You redeemed my life.

59 You have seen my subversion, O Jehovah;  
judge my cause.

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

61 You have heard their reproach, O Jehovah,  
all their plots against me,

62 the lips of those rising up against me,  
and their scheming against me all the day.

63 Look at their sitting and their rising  
up. I *am* their song.

64 You will give back a recompense to  
them, O Jehovah, according to the work  
of their hands.

65 You will give them a covering up of  
heart *as* Your curse to them.

66 Pursue and destroy them in anger from  
under the heavens of Jehovah.

### **Lamentations 4**

*I Zion bewails her pitiful estate. 13 She confesses  
her sins. 21 Edom is threatened.*

1 ¶ How the gold dims, the good pure  
gold is changed! The stones of the sanctuary  
are poured out at the head of all the  
outside places.

2 The precious sons of Zion are weighed  
against pure gold. How they are counted as  
earthen vessels, the work of a potter's hand!

3 Even the jackals draw out the breast;  
they suckle their young. *But* the daughter  
of my people *is* cruel, like the ostriches in  
the wilderness.

4 The tongue of the nursling cleaves to his  
palate in thirst. The young children ask  
bread, but there is no breaking for them.

5 Those who ate delicacies are desolate in  
the outside places; those reared on scarlet  
embrace dunghills.

6 And the iniquity of the daughter of my  
people is heaped more than the sin of Sodom,  
*which was* overthrown *as in* a moment, and  
no hands were whirled on her.

7 Her Nazarites *were* purer than snow,  
whiter than milk; they *were* redder *of* bone  
than corals; their cuttings *as azure-blue*, as  
lapis lazuli.

8 Their appearance *is* darker than soot;  
they are not recognized in the outside  
places. Their skin has shriveled on their  
bones; it is dried up, it has become like wood.

9 Better *are* the wounded *ones* by the sword than the ones slain by famine, those who flow *away*, pierced because the produce of my fields *failed*.

10 The hands of the compassionate women have boiled their own children; they became food to them in the ruin of the daughter of my people.

11 Jehovah has fulfilled His fury; He has poured out the anger of His nostril and has kindled a fire in Zion; and it has devoured its foundations.

12 The kings of the earth and all those living *in* the world would not have believed that the oppressive *one* and the enemy would go into the gates of Jerusalem,

13 ¶ because of the sins of her prophets and the iniquities of her priests, pouring out the blood of the righteous *ones* in her midst,

14 they reeled blind in the outside places. They are defiled with blood, so that not *any* are able to touch their garments.

15 They cried out to them, Turn aside! Unclean! Turn aside, turn aside! Touch not! Indeed they fled and reeled. They said among the nations, They will not continue to live there.

16 The face of Jehovah has divided them out; He will not continue to look on them. They did not lift up the face of the priests, they did not favor the elders.

17 While we exist, our eyes fail for our vain help. In our watching, we have watched for a nation; it does not save.

18 They hunted our steps from going in our outside places. Our end came near, our days were fulfilled, for our end had come.

19 Our pursuers were swifter than the eagles of the heavens; they hotly pursued us on the mountains; they lay in wait for us in the wilderness.

20 The breath of our nostrils, the anointed *of* Jehovah, was captured in their pits; *of* whom we said, In His shadow we will live among the nations.

21 ¶ Rejoice and be glad, O daughter of Edom, living in the land of Uz. The cup also shall pass through to you; you shall be drunken and make yourself naked.

22 Your perversity *is* complete, daughter of Zion; He will not add to exile you. He

will visit your perversity, daughter of Edom; He will expose your sins.

### ***Lamentations 5***

*A pitiful complaint of Zion in prayer unto Jehovah.*

1 ¶ O Jehovah, remember what has happened to us; look upon and see our reproach.

2 Our inheritance has been turned to aliens, our houses to foreigners.

3 We are orphans. *There is* no father; our mothers *are* like widows.

4 We have drunk our water for silver; our wood comes for a price.

5 On our necks we *are* pursued; we grow weary; rest is not given to us.

6 We have given the hand *to* the Egyptians, to the Assyrian, in order to be satisfied with bread.

7 Our fathers have sinned, and *are* not; we have borne their perversities.

8 Slaves rule over us; *there is* no rescuer from their hand.

9 We bring in our bread with our souls, from the face of the sword of the wilderness.

10 Our skin *is* burned black like an oven, because of the fever heat of famine.

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

12 Rulers were hanged by their hands; the faces of the elders were not honored.

13 They lifted the young men *to* the hand mill, and the youths stumbled at the wood.

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

15 The joy of our heart has ceased; our dance has turned to mourning.

16 The crown has fallen *from* our head. Woe now to us, for we have sinned!

17 ¶ For this our heart is faint; our eyes are dim for these *things*.

18 Zion *is* laid waste on the mountain; foxes walk about on it.

19 O Jehovah, You remain forever; Your throne to generation and generation.

20 Why do You forget us forever, forsake us the length of days?

21 Return us to You, O Jehovah, and we shall return. Renew our days as of old,

22 for rejecting You have rejected us; You are exceedingly angry against us.