

PRECEPT
UPON
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Lamentations

HOPE AND HEALING IN THE
AFTERMATH OF REBELLION
AGAINST GOD

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT®
LAMENTATIONS
HOPE AND HEALING IN THE AFTERMATH
OF REBELLION AGAINST GOD

ISBN 978-1-62119-294-7

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2nd edition

Printed in the United States of America

PAGE **LESSONS**

- 1 LESSON ONE: **Lamentations 1–2**
- 19 LESSON TWO: **Lamentations 3**
- 31 LESSON THREE: **Lamentations 4–5**

APPENDIX

- 44 Explanations of the New American Standard Bible Text Format
- 45 Lamentations Observation Worksheets
- 67 Lamentations at a Glance

HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

How to Study Your Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994/2010

The New Inductive Study Bible—New American Standard Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2000

Hebrew Word Study Tools

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

GAEBELEIN, FRANK E.

The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 6, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishers, 1990

BRENEMAN, MERVIN

The New American Commentary, Volume 16, Jeremiah, Lamentations

Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman Press, 1993

WALVOORD, JOHN F., ZUCK, ROY B., EDS.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures

Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1983-c1985

CARSON, D. A.

The New Bible Commentary

Downers Grove, Illinois: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994

KEIL, C. F., DELITZSCH, F.

Commentary on the Old Testament

Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 2002

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

Logos Bible Software

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LESSON ONE

Chapters One and Two

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES The following located in the Appendix:
Observation Worksheets of Lamentations 1–2
Word studies
Cross-references

THE AFTERMATH OF REBELLING AGAINST GOD

What happens when a nation turns its back on God? When it acknowledges God but does not honor Him as God? When it twists, distorts, or even forbids the proclamation of the truths of His Word?

Oh, how timely is this study of Lamentations.

What lessons are there for you and your nation . . . and for us as individuals in dealing with the aftermath of rebellion? Of listening to false prophets? Of thinking that God will not hold us accountable for transgressing His Word and then discovering we were wrong?

How do you live with yourself? With the consequences? Reconstruct the shambles of life and make it worth living again?

Or can you?

Yes, you can, because He's a God of compassion. You just need to know how to tap into His mercies which are new every morning . . . and this you will learn in your study of Lamentations.

DAY ONE

A lament is an expression of grief, of mourning, of sorrow. Surely we have each been there at one time or another. Some of us more than others. We feel as if life is one continual lament. You know the feeling, don't you? The pain. The guilt for what we did, should have done, or didn't do. The crippling sorrow. The sense,

often, of despair. And then to make matters worse, we think there is no sorrow like our sorrow—and a twinge of envy creeps into our hearts as we look at those who have what we’ve dreamed of and missed.

We will study Lamentations chapter-by-chapter over the next three weeks. Lesson 1 covers chapters 1–2, Lesson 2 covers chapter 3, and Lesson 3 covers chapters 4–5. As you begin seeing for yourself what the text says, you’ll want to ask the Lord’s help; He’s the ultimate Author!

1. In the Appendix you will find “**Observation Worksheets**,” which are simply the text of Lamentations double-spaced with wide margins. Your assignment for today is to read the first chapter of Lamentations. As you read Lamentations 1,
 - a. pick a color for *Jerusalem* (for example, light blue) and color every reference to Jerusalem, including pronouns, in that color.
 - b. color any synonyms used for Jerusalem, such as Zion, in the same color. Jerusalem was the capital of a nation who rebelled against the Lord. If you are living in a nation that has done the same, take note!
2. As you read, you may have noticed certain words repeated throughout the chapter. These are called key words. **Key words** are important repeated words the author uses throughout a chapter, a segment of scripture, or an entire book. They help unlock the meaning of the text. Color-coding them and/or marking them in a distinctive way helps you see how often and when they are used.

It is also helpful to list these important words on a **Key Word Bookmark** and mark them as you will do throughout the book. You can use the card on the back cover of your Precept book. Marking suggestions for some frequently used words in the Bible are on the reverse side of the card. *Throughout this book, an asterisk denotes words with a marking suggestion.

List *Jerusalem* on your card, along with the following key words. Then read chapter 1 again and mark these words:

- a. *comfort*
 - b. *adversaries (enemies)* and any synonyms
 - c. *nations**
 - d. expressions of time,* such as *when* or *on the day of* . . .
3. Now that you’ve read the chapter twice, let’s see what you learned from marking Jerusalem. Of course it is a city, but a city is comprised of people. Seek out the answers to the “5 W’s and an H” (Who, What, When, Where, Why, How) that help us get a true analysis of what is being written.

- a. Let's look at how the city is introduced to us in verse 1.
 - 1) What contrasts do you see? List below what Jerusalem was and what it is now.

 - 2) Now for immediate application, look at the nations of the world. Do you see any similarities? If so, what are they?

- b. From your study of chapter 1, what is the state of Jerusalem?

- c. Why is Jerusalem in this condition?

-
- d. Who lived in Jerusalem—or is still in the city—and where are they? What is their state—how are they faring? List the various peoples below and note what the text tells you about them.
- e. Does this chapter give you any sense of the timing of this lament—when it happened and what led up to it?
- f. What does Jerusalem acknowledge in this chapter? By the way, did you notice the shift in pronouns in verses 9 and 11? Why the shift?
4. Although we haven't finished observing this chapter, we'll pause at this point so you can take some time to reflect on what you've observed. Remember, Beloved of God, the words you've observed are the very words of God. They've come from His mouth and the Lord has preserved them over the millennia so we can know and understand Him and His ways and have insight for the times we live in.

Now, after this first run through, what have you seen and learned that God can use in your life? Do you see any similarities to the state of your nation, your capital, your people today? Jot them down. Also, what emotions does it evoke and why?

DAY TWO

1. Ask the Spirit of God to use Lamentations to open your eyes to the state of your nation—and to cleanse you, its citizen, through the washing of the water of His Word.
2. Read through Lamentations 1 again today. You might read it aloud, as hearing its words will help you remember it better. Add the following to your Key Word Bookmark and color or mark every reference to:
 - a. the *Lord*, * including pronouns.
 - b. the *sanctuary* (see temple*), which is the temple where the people worshiped God. *Sanctuary* is only mentioned once in this chapter, but it will appear more later. Remember the sanctuary is the temple built by King Solomon, the son of David the second king of Israel. This is where they were to turn to and pray when they were in distress because of their sins (2 Chronicles 6–7).
 - c. every occurrence of *transgression(s)*, * *sinned*, *rebelled*, and *wickedness*.
3. Now, let's see what we can learn from the references to the Lord that we marked in Lamentations 1. Read all the instructions before you begin so you don't duplicate your work.
 - a. What does Jerusalem want the Lord to do and why? List your insights.

- b. What did the Lord do to Jerusalem? Does the text tell you why? If so, note it.
- c. What does this chapter tell you about the Lord—His person and ways? List your observations.
4. If you have the tools, look up the Hebrew words translated *transgression* and *sinned*. Record them below along with their meanings.
- a. transgression
- b. sinned

5. According to what you have observed in Lamentations 1,
- a. when we sin (transgress)—who is it against? Who suffers?
 - b. What do you think the first three lines of Lamentations 1:9 mean?
 - c. Now for application, when you make a choice, do you stop and consider the consequences of that choice? Would this change some of the decisions you made in the past? Why?
6. After you finish this course on Lamentations, you might consider leading someone through the 40-Minute Study on *How to Make Choices You Won't Regret*.¹

DAY THREE

“She did not consider her future. Therefore she has fallen astonishingly . . . ”

Life is serious and choices bring consequences—grave consequences when those choices willfully go against the Word of God.

So many times when we sow to the wind and reap the whirlwind, our first response is usually “justification” for our actions, something like

¹ Kay Arthur, David Lawson, B.J. Lawson, *How to Make Choices You Won't Regret* (Colorado Springs, CO: WaterBrook Press, 2003).

*“But I didn’t know, I didn’t realize.
If I had known it was going to turn out this way, then . . . ”*

Then, of course, we say we would have done differently had we known. But now it is too late!!!

Did Jerusalem know they would end up in this horrific state?

Surely as you pored over Lamentations 1, you began to sense the awful, awful far-reaching consequences of Jerusalem’s rebellion “against His command” and the pain, weeping, and desolation that followed (1:18). Did they have any idea that they, the nation formed and chosen by God, were going to be in such “affliction and homelessness” (1:7), asking those who pass by to see “if there is any pain like my pain” (1:12)?

Was what happened to Judah and Jerusalem something totally unexpected? Although those of you who have been studying with us from Genesis right up to this point know the answer, others might not know. So let’s take today to explore the Scriptures and see what they were taught. For those of you who already know, remember, review is good.

1. We will begin with Deuteronomy, the fifth book of the Torah, the Law. Read Deuteronomy 28:1–29:1. As you read, simply look for the blessings and the curses. Then answer the questions below. Short answers are fine. Detail is not necessary.
 - a. What brought the blessings?
 - b. What brought the curses?
 - c. Have you seen any of the curses mentioned in Deuteronomy also mentioned in Lamentations 1?

- d. Did God make the conditions and the consequences clear?
2. Now read Deuteronomy 29:22-29. What message is to be given to those who inquire of the ruined state of the land God gave by covenant to His people, beginning with Abraham, and confirmed to Isaac and then to Jacob and then to the twelve sons (tribes) of Israel? Remember God changed Jacob's name to Israel.
3. What about successive generations? Did they know about the blessings and the curses? Read Deuteronomy 31:9-13 and write out what the Word of God tells you. Get down the main points of this passage.
4. Jeremiah began his ministry as a prophet in the thirteenth year of King Josiah. In the eighteenth year of Josiah, while repairing the temple, they found the Torah, the book of the Law, which had been lost in the house, the temple of God. Josiah was twenty-six years old and had a heart for God, but he had not heard the Word of God until then. When the Law was read to him, Josiah wept, tore his clothes and humbled himself before God (2 Kings 22:10-19).
Read 2 Kings 23:1-3 for a synopsis of what happened. Write down what the king and the people did as a result of hearing the Word of God.

6. And what will happen to Babylon and to the nations?
 - a. Read Jeremiah 25:12-17, 27-33. What is God going to do?
 - 1) What are the main points of this prayer?
 - 2) Can you see the connection between the last point of the prayer and the verses you just looked at in Jeremiah 25? Write it out.
 - b. Now look at the prayer of Jerusalem in Lamentations 1:20-22.
 - 1) What are the main points of this prayer?
 - 2) Can you see the connection between the last point of the prayer and the verses you just looked at in Jeremiah 25? Write it out.
7. Now read Jeremiah 36:1-8.
 - a. Note the timing. Note the message. Note who delivered it and what God hopes they will do (verse 7).
 - b. Did the people listen to the word of God, turn from their evil way, and pray?

- c. And how does Lamentations 1:20-22 fit into all this? What is its timing with respect to Jeremiah 36:1-8? When did they finally pray? What did they pray that they should have prayed sooner?
- d. What can you apply from this to your life?

The Word, obedience, and prayer . . . better to intertwine them now in our lives than to not listen, not obey, and then find ourselves lamenting in prayer for forgiveness and rescue from a situation of our own making.

DAY FOUR

In the light of the rampant and blatant sin found among those who profess to know Jesus Christ and therefore call themselves Christians, and with respect to the dark cloud of sin hovering over the United States of America, the timing of this study seems to be ordained of God.

There is so much to learn that will help us individually and nationally and will prepare us to help others in the days ahead. Study well, Beloved, even though it is a book of laments. Maybe what we learn will keep us from sin and its awful consequences.

Yes, we live this side of the cross and are partakers of the New Covenant, first so named in the book of Jeremiah, which grants us forgiveness of sins and plants our feet firmly in the grace of God. However, grace is never license to sin with impunity. Sin always carries a personal consequence and with it comes mourning . . . a lament.

By the time we finish this study, Beloved, you will not only have learned much about dealing with the incredible sorrow that follows sin, you will also be prepared to share and apply its precepts in these times of unprecedented pain among those who live in blatant disregard of God.

1. Read Lamentations 2:1-9 and mark the predominant person as you marked Him in Lamentations 1. When you finish, reflect on what you observed. Look at the verbs. Summarize what these verses tell us about Him. What is God's point?

2. Now observe the entire chapter. Add the following words to your Key Word Bookmark and mark them, along with the other words on your bookmark:
 - a. God's *anger*
 - b. *destroy, wrath, flaming fire*
 - c. All the references to the *tabernacle, the house of the Lord*, the way you marked *sanctuary* in chapter 1
 - d. *appointed feast*. Mark 1:4 the same way; however, don't add it to your bookmark since it's not used after chapter 2.
 - e. *heart*

3. Although this is considered poetic literature and there are no paragraph divisions, how would you divide this chapter by content or emphasis? Mark divisions in pencil on your Observation Worksheet and then write down the main topic of each.

4. Now, Beloved, stop and think about all you have learned these past four days about sin and about the Lord.
 - a. Does your understanding of God agree with these truths?

 - b. Do you need to correct any beliefs so they line up with the plumb line of God's Word? List them.

- c. How does what you have observed affect your understanding of disobedience to the Word of God?
-
5. How does the world's view on the rights of an individual line up with the Bible? Studying God's Word inductively should help you develop a biblical worldview—see and measure everything by the plumb line of God's Word. The world teaches that one person's rights end where another's begin, that the sins of one individual don't have anything to do with another. That may be true in some cases, but as we see in Lamentations 1 and 2, the effects of sin can spill over to entire nations, not just the guilty. How does this truth affect your perspective of your family, community, or country?

DAY
FIVE

1. Begin today by reading through Lamentations 2 to refresh your memory.
2. If you haven't already commented on it, as you think through the content of Lamentations 2, who suffers when a nation is disobedient? What groups of peoples are mentioned in this chapter? Do any escape? List your observations below.

3. How does Lamentations 2:17 relate to what you studied on Day 3?

4. Read Lamentations 2:18-19.
 - a. What is the exhortation of Lamentations 2:18-19?

 - b. How does this compare with Jeremiah 14:13-18 and what you've read concerning the prophets in Lamentations 2:14?

 - c. Why do you think this call to grief over sin is important?

5. In Lamentations 2:19 there is the exhortation to pour out your heart like water. Compare this with the following scriptures and see if you can discern the reason and/or benefit from pouring out your heart like water before the presence of the Lord.
 - a. Psalm 42

b. Psalm 62:5-8

c. Psalm 142

6. What is the cry, the prayer to the Lord in Lamentations 2? What does this say to you?

7. Now that you have a taste of Lamentations 1 and 2, it seems a good time to explain how the book of Lamentations is laid out. There are insights into the composition and structure of this book that you could only get through an understanding of the Hebrew language. Therefore, since biblical Hebrew is not the language of most of us, we want to share with you what we have learned from others about the structure of the lamentations.²

² Frank E. Gaebelien, ed., *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 6, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishers, 1990), pp. 697-698. Charles R. Swindoll, *Lamentations of Jeremiah (Bible Study Guide)* (Fullerton, California: Insight for Living, 1986), pp. 10-11. Irving L. Jensen, *Jensen's Survey of the Old Testament* (Chicago: Moody Bible Institute, 1978), pp. 352-53.

First, Lamentations is poetic literature.

- Lamentations is found in the last section of the Hebrew Bible. The Hebrew Bible (our Old Testament) is divided into three segments: the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings. The last section of the Writings (containing Lamentations) is the Megilloth, which is comprised of five Old Testament books read publically on Jewish holidays.
- Lamentations is read on the 9th of Av, which commemorates the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in 586 B.C. and A.D. 70.

Although there are different poetic styles and devices in the book, there is a specific cadence heard in the reading of the poetry that conveys the mood of its words, a mood you will quickly sense as you observe the text.

Second, Lamentations consists of five different lamentations.

- The title of Lamentations is taken from the book’s first word, *’ēkâh*. This word may be translated “Alas!” or “How” and was a characteristic cry of lament or exclamation (cf. 2 Sam. 1:19; Jer. 9:19).³
- Except for Lamentations 5 each chapter is an acrostic. An acrostic uses the letters in a composition to spell a word or phrase, or, as in the case of Lamentations, it lays out the Hebrew alphabet in order.
- The Hebrew alphabet has twenty-two letters. Three of the lamentations—chapters 1, 2, and 4—consist of twenty-two verses. Each of these verses begins with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Chapters 1 and 2 have three-line stanzas while chapter 4 has only two-line stanzas.
- Lamentations 3 has sixty-six verses—three times twenty-two. It’s the crescendo of the book both in layout and in content. Each of the three lines in every stanza begins with the same letter of the Hebrew alphabet from *aleph* to *tau* (A to Z in the English alphabet)! [Because of the length of Lamentations 3, we will devote one week to its study.]
- And what about chapter 5? It’s *not* an acrostic of the Hebrew alphabet but it does have twenty-two verses so it doesn’t break the mold completely!

³ J. F. Walvoord, R. B. Zuck, & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (1:1207). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

8. Finally, Beloved, why don't you write out your own lament for your nation. It does not need to be in poetic form. It can be a prayer. Or, if words are not your thing, what about a sketch or a composite of pictures or articles that show the state of affairs or your concerns about the nation in which you live? Or it might even be a letter to the editor.

As a point of discipleship, remember we live in a culture that is quick to accuse anyone of judging if they feel scrutinized. So much so in fact that even the church is often afraid to talk about sin. Yet 1 Corinthians 5:6 says, “. . . Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough?” As members of the body of Christ, we have a calling to preach Christ crucified to those outside the church, but we must confront sin within it so that it does not spread (like leaven). Hold each other accountable, have hard conversations when necessary, and praise God that you have brothers and sisters who love enough to confront with truth!

LAMENTATIONS 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

HOW lonely sits the city

That was full of people!

She has become like a widow

Who was *once* great among the nations!

She who was a princess among the provinces

Has become a forced laborer!

2 She weeps bitterly in the night

And her tears are on her cheeks;

She has none to comfort her

Among all her lovers.

All her friends have dealt treacherously with her;

They have become her enemies.

3 Judah has gone into exile under affliction

And under harsh servitude;

She dwells among the nations,

But she has found no rest;

All her pursuers have overtaken her

In the midst of distress.

4 The roads of Zion are in mourning

Because no one comes to the appointed feasts.

All her gates are desolate;

Her priests are groaning,

Her virgins are afflicted,

And she herself is bitter.

5 Her adversaries have become her masters,

Her enemies prosper;

For the LORD has caused her grief

Because of the multitude of her transgressions;
Her little ones have gone away
As captives before the adversary.

6 All her majesty
Has departed from the daughter of Zion;
Her princes have become like deer
That have found no pasture;
And they have fled without strength
Before the pursuer.

7 In the days of her affliction and homelessness
Jerusalem remembers all her precious things
That were from the days of old,
When her people fell into the hand of the adversary
And no one helped her.
The adversaries saw her,
They mocked at her ruin.

8 Jerusalem sinned greatly,
Therefore she has become an unclean thing.
All who honored her despise her
Because they have seen her nakedness;
Even she herself groans and turns away.

9 Her uncleanness was in her skirts;
She did not consider her future.
Therefore she has fallen astonishingly;
She has no comforter.

“See, O LORD, my affliction,
For the enemy has magnified himself!”

10 The adversary has stretched out his hand
Over all her precious things,
For she has seen the nations enter her sanctuary,
The ones whom You commanded
That they should not enter into Your congregation.

- 11 All her people groan seeking bread;
They have given their precious things for food
To restore their lives themselves.
“See, O LORD, and look,
For I am despised.”
- 12 “Is it nothing to all you who pass this way?
Look and see if there is any pain like my pain
Which was severely dealt out to me,
Which the LORD inflicted on the day of His fierce anger.
- 13 “From on high He sent fire into my bones,
And it prevailed *over them*.
He has spread a net for my feet;
He has turned me back;
He has made me desolate,
Faint all day long.
- 14 “The yoke of my transgressions is bound;
By His hand they are knit together.
They have come upon my neck;
He has made my strength fail.
The Lord has given me into the hands
Of *those against whom* I am not able to stand.
- 15 “The Lord has rejected all my strong men
In my midst;
He has called an appointed time against me
To crush my young men;
The Lord has trodden *as in* a wine press
The virgin daughter of Judah.
- 16 “For these things I weep;
My eyes run down with water;
Because far from me is a comforter,
One who restores my soul.
My children are desolate
Because the enemy has prevailed.”

- 17 Zion stretches out her hands;
There is no one to comfort her;
The LORD has commanded concerning Jacob
That the ones round about him should be his adversaries;
Jerusalem has become an unclean thing among them.
- 18 “The LORD is righteous;
For I have rebelled against His command;
Hear now, all peoples,
And behold my pain;
My virgins and my young men
Have gone into captivity.
- 19 “I called to my lovers, *but* they deceived me;
My priests and my elders perished in the city
While they sought food to restore their strength themselves.
- 20 “See, O LORD, for I am in distress;
My spirit is greatly troubled;
My heart is overturned within me,
For I have been very rebellious.
In the street the sword slays;
In the house it is like death.
- 21 “They have heard that I groan;
There is no one to comfort me;
All my enemies have heard of my calamity;
They are glad that You have done *it*.
Oh, that You would bring the day which You have proclaimed,
That they may become like me.
- 22 “Let all their wickedness come before You;
And deal with them as You have dealt with me
For all my transgressions;
For my groans are many and my heart is faint.”

LAMENTATIONS 2

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- HOW** the Lord has covered the daughter of Zion
With a cloud in His anger!
He has cast from heaven to earth
The glory of Israel,
And has not remembered His footstool
In the day of His anger.
- 2 The Lord has swallowed up; He has not spared
All the habitations of Jacob.
In His wrath He has thrown down
The strongholds of the daughter of Judah;
He has brought *them* down to the ground;
He has profaned the kingdom and its princes.
- 3 In fierce anger He has cut off
All the strength of Israel;
He has drawn back His right hand
From before the enemy.
And He has burned in Jacob like a flaming fire
Consuming round about.
- 4 He has bent His bow like an enemy;
He has set His right hand like an adversary
And slain all that were pleasant to the eye;
In the tent of the daughter of Zion
He has poured out His wrath like fire.
- 5 The Lord has become like an enemy.
He has swallowed up Israel;
He has swallowed up all its palaces,
He has destroyed its strongholds
And multiplied in the daughter of Judah
Mourning and moaning.

- 6 And He has violently treated His tabernacle like a garden *booth*;
He has destroyed His appointed meeting place.
The LORD has caused to be forgotten
The appointed feast and sabbath in Zion,
And He has despised king and priest
In the indignation of His anger.
- 7 The Lord has rejected His altar,
He has abandoned His sanctuary;
He has delivered 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 an appointed feast.
- 8 The LORD determined to destroy
The wall of the daughter of Zion.
He has stretched out a line,
He has not restrained His hand from destroying,
And He has caused rampart and wall to lament;
They have languished together.
- 9 Her gates have sunk into the ground,
He has destroyed and broken her bars.
Her king and her princes are among the nations;
The law is no more.
Also, her prophets find
No vision from the LORD.
- 10 The elders of the daughter of Zion
Sit on the ground, they are silent.
They have thrown dust on their heads;
They have girded themselves with sackcloth.
The virgins of Jerusalem
Have bowed their heads to the ground.

- 11 My eyes fail because of tears,
My spirit is greatly troubled;
My heart is poured out on the earth
Because of the destruction of the daughter of my people,
When little ones and infants faint
In the streets of the city.
- 12 They say to their mothers,
“Where is grain and wine?”
As they faint like a wounded man
In the streets of the city,
As their life is poured out
On their mothers’ bosom.
- 13 How shall I admonish you?
To what shall I compare you,
O daughter of Jerusalem?
To what shall I liken you as I comfort you,
O virgin daughter of Zion?
For your ruin is as vast as the sea;
Who can heal you?
- 14 Your prophets have seen for you
False and foolish *visions*;
And they have not exposed your iniquity
So as to restore you from captivity,
But they have seen for you false and misleading oracles.
- 15 All who pass along the way
Clap their hands *in derision* at you;
They hiss and shake their heads
At the daughter of Jerusalem,
“Is this the city of which they said,
‘The perfection of beauty,
A joy to all the earth’?”

- 16 All your enemies
Have opened their mouths wide against you;
They hiss and gnash *their* teeth.
They say, “We have swallowed *her* up!
Surely this is the day for which we waited;
We have reached *it*, we have seen *it*.”
- 17 The LORD has done what He purposed;
He has accomplished His word
Which He commanded from days of old.
He has thrown down without sparing,
And He has caused the enemy to rejoice over you;
He has exalted the might of your adversaries.
- 18 Their heart cried out to the Lord,
“O wall of the daughter of Zion,
Let *your* tears run down like a river day and night;
Give yourself no relief,
Let your eyes have no rest.
- 19 “Arise, cry aloud in the night
At the beginning of the night watches;
Pour out your heart like water
Before the presence of the Lord;
Lift up your hands to Him
For the life of your little ones
Who are faint because of hunger
At the head of every street.”
- 20 See, O LORD, and look!
With whom have You dealt thus?
Should women eat their offspring,
The little ones who were born healthy?
Should priest and prophet be slain
In the sanctuary of the Lord?

- 21 On the ground in the streets
Lie young and old;
My virgins and my young men
Have fallen by the sword.
You have slain *them* in the day of Your anger,
You have slaughtered, not sparing.
- 22 You called as in the day of an appointed feast
My terrors on every side;
And there was no one who escaped or survived
In the day of the LORD'S anger.
Those whom I bore and reared,
My enemy annihilated them.

