LAMENTATIONS

Chapter 1

1 ¶ How lonely sits the city that was full of people! "How has she become as a widow! She who was great among the nations, and "princess among the provinces, how has she become a slave!

2 She "weeps bitterly in the "night and her tears are on her cheeks. Among all her lovers she has no one to comfort her. All her friends have dealt treacherously with her. They have become her enemies.

3 "Judah has gone into captivity under affliction and under great servitude. 'She dwells among the nations. She finds no rest. All her persecutors overtook her in the midst of her troubles.

4 The roads to Zion mourn because no one comes to the solemn feasts. All her gates are "desolate. Her priests sigh. Her virgins are afflicted and she is in bitterness.

5 Her adversaries have become her masters. Her enemies prosper, for the LORD has afflicted her because of the multitude of her transgressions. Her "children have gone into captivity before the enemy.

6 All majesty has departed from the daughter of Zion. Her princes have become like deer "that find no pasture, that flee without strength before the pursuer.

7 Jerusalem 'remembered in the days of her affliction and of her mis-

eries all her pleasant things that she had in the days of old, when her people fell into the hand of the enemy, and no one helped her. The adversaries saw her and mocked at her downfall.

8 ¶ "Jerusalem has grievously sinned. Therefore, she is filthy. All who honored her despise her because "they have seen her nakedness. Yes, she sighs and turns backward.

9 Her filthiness is in her skirts. "She did not consider her destiny. Therefore, she came down astonishingly. She had no comforter. O LORD, behold my affliction, for the enemy has magnified himself.

10 The adversary has spread out His hand upon all her pleasant things, for she has seen that the nations entered into her sanctuary, whom You commanded "that they should not enter into Your assembly.

11 All her people sigh. "They seek bread. They have given their treasures for food in order to live. "See, O LORD, and consider, for I am scorned.

12 ¶ "Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Behold, and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow, that has been brought on me, which the LORD has afflicted me in the day of His fierce anger.
against them. He has spread a net for my feet. He has turned me back. He has made me desolate and faint all the day.

14 “The yoke of my transgressions was bound by His hand. They were woven and came up to my neck. He has made my strength fall. The Lord has delivered me into their hands. I am not able to rise up.

15 “The Lord has trodden under foot all my mighty men in the midst of me. He has called an assembly against me to crush my young men. The Lord has trampled the virgin, the daughter of Judah, as in a winepress.

16 “For these things I weep. My eye, my eye runs down with water because the comforter who should relieve my soul is far from me. My children are desolate because the enemy prevailed.”

17 Zion spreads forth her hands and there is no one to comfort her. The LORD has commanded concerning Jacob that His adversaries should be all around him. Jerusalem is as a menstruous woman among them.

18 ¶ “The LORD is righteous, for I have rebelled against His commandment. Hear now all you people and behold my sorrow. My virgins and my young men have gone into captivity.

19 “I called for my lovers, but they deceived me. My priests and my elders perished in the city while they sought food to restore their own strength.

20 “Behold, O LORD, for I am in distress. My soul is greatly troubled. My heart has turned within me, for I have grievously rebelled. In the street the sword slays. In the house it is like death.

21 “They have heard that I sigh. There is no one to comfort me. All my enemies have heard of my trouble. They are glad that you have done it. Oh, that You would bring the day that You have announced so that they may become like me.

22 ¶ “Let all their wickedness come before You, and do to them as You have done to me for all my transgressions. For my sighs are many and my heart is faint.”

Chapter 2

1 ¶ How the Lord has covered the daughter of Zion with a cloud in His anger! He has cast down from heaven to the earth the beauty of Israel, and not remembered His footstool in the day of His anger!

2 The Lord has swallowed up all the habitations of Jacob and has had no pity. He has thrown down in His wrath the strongholds of the daughter of Judah. He has brought them down to the ground. He has profaned the kingdom and its princes.

3 He has cut off in His fierce anger all the horn of Israel. He has drawn back His right hand from before the enemy, and burned against Jacob like a flaming fire that devours all around.

4 ¶ He has bent His bow like an enemy. He stood with His right hand
as an adversary and slew all who 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 has swallowed up Israel. He has swallowed up all her palaces. He has destroyed her strongholds, and has increased mourning and lamentation 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 places of the assembly. The LORD has caused the solemn feasts and sabbaths to be forgotten in Zion, and has despised king and priest in the indignation of His anger.

7 The Lord has cast off His altar. He has abandoned His sanctuary. He has 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 has purposed to destroy the wall of the daughter of Zion. He has stretched out a line. He has not withdrawn His hand from destroying. Therefore, He made the rampart and the wall to lament. They 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. Her prophets also find no vision from the LORD.

10 The elders of the daughter of Zion sit upon the ground and keep silent. They have girded themselves with sackcloth. The virgins of Jerusalem hang down their heads to the ground.

11 ¶ My eyes fail because of tears. My spirit is greatly troubled. My heart is poured out on the ground because of the destruction of the daughter of my people, because the children and infants faint in the streets of the city.

12 They say to their mothers, "Where is grain and wine?", as they faint as the wounded in the streets of the city, as their life is poured out on their mothers’ bosom.

13 How will I admonish you? To what will I compare you, O daughter of Jerusalem? To what will I equal you so that I may comfort you, O virgin daughter of Zion? For your breach is great like the sea. Who can heal you?

14 Your prophets have seen vain and foolish things for you. And they have not uncovered your iniquity to turn away your captivity. But they have envisioned for you false and misleading oracles.

15 All who pass by clap their hands at you. 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 your enemies have opened their mouth against you. They hiss and gnash the teeth. They say, “We have swallowed her up. Certainly this is the day for which we hoped. We have found it and we have seen it.”

Lamentations 2
17 The LORD has done what He had devised. He has fulfilled His word that He had commanded in the days of old. He has thrown down and has not pitied. And He has caused your enemy to rejoice over you. He has set up the horn of your adversaries.

18 ¶ Their heart cried out to the Lord, “O wall of the daughter of Zion, let tears run down like a river day and night. Give yourself no rest. Do not let the apple of your eye cease.

19 “Arise! Cry out in the night. In the beginning of the watches pour out your heart like water before the face of the Lord. Lift up your hands toward Him for the life of your young children who faint because of hunger at the head of every street.”

20 ¶ Behold, O LORD, and consider to whom You have done this. Will the women eat their offspring and children who were born healthy? Will 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 have fallen by the sword. You have slain them in the day of Your anger. You have killed and not pitied.

22 ¶ You have called as in a solemn day my terrors all around, so that in the day of the LORD’S anger no one escapes or remains. Those whom I have borne and brought up, My enemy has consumed.”
17 And You have removed my soul far away from peace. I forgot happiness.
18 "And I said, “My strength and my hope have perished from the LORD.”
19 ¶ Remember my affliction and my misery, the wormwood and the gall.
20 My soul still remembers and is bowed down within me.
21 This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope.
22 Because of the LORD’s mercies we are not consumed, for His compassion does not fail.
23 They are new every morning. Great is Your faithfulness.
24 “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in Him.”
25 The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks 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 sits alone and keeps silence, because he has laid it upon him.
29 aHe puts his mouth in the dust, if perhaps there is hope.
30 bHe gives his cheek to him who smites him. He is filled full with reproach.
31 cFor the Lord will not reject forever.
32 Though He causes grief, yet He will have compassion according to the multitude of His mercies.
33 For dHe does 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 does not approve.
37 Who is he who speaks and it comes to pass, when the Lord does not command it?
38 Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that both good and woe go forth?
39 Why does a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?
40 ¶ Let us search and examine our ways, and turn again to the LORD.
41 Let us lift up our heart with our hands to God in the heavens.
42 kWe have transgressed and have rebelled. You have not pardoned.
43 ¶ You have covered with anger and persecuted us. You have slain. You have not pitied.
44 You have covered Yourself with a cloud so that our prayer should not pass through.
45 You have made us as the offscouring and refuse in the midst of the people.
46 All our enemies have opened their mouths against us.
47 aFear and a snare have come upon us, desolation and destruction.
48 ¶ My eye runs down with rivers of water because of the destruction of the daughter of my people.
49 qMy eye trickles down, and does
not cease, without any interruption,
until the LORD looks down and
beholds from heaven.
My eye affects my heart because
of all the daughters of my city.
Without cause my enemies hunted me down like a bird.
They have cut off my life in the
dungeon and cast a stone upon me.
Waters flowed over my head. Then said, “I am cut off.”
I called upon Your name, O LORD, out of the lowest dungeon.
You have heard my voice. Do not hide Your ear from my breathing,
from my cry.
You drew near in the day that I called upon You. You said,
Do not fear.”
O Lord, You have pleaded the case of my soul.
You have redeemed my life.
O LORD, You have seen my wrong. Judge my case.
You have seen all their vengeance and all their imaginations against me.
You have heard their reproach, O LORD, and all their schemes against me,
the lips of those who rose up against me, and their device against me all day long.
Behold their sitting down and their rising up. I am their mocking song.
Repay them, O LORD, according to the work of their hands.
Give them sorrow of heart, Your curse to them.
In Your anger, persecute and destroy them from under the heavens of the LORD.

Chapter 4

How the gold becomes dim!
How the most fine gold has changed! The stones of the sanctuary are poured out at the head of every street.
The precious sons of Zion, comparable to fine gold, how they are esteemed as clay pots, the work of the hands of the potter!
Even the jackals offer the breast. They give suck to their young ones. The daughter of my people has become cruel, like the ostriches in the wilderness.
The tongue of the nursing child cleaves to the roof of His mouth because of thirst. The young children ask for bread and no one breaks it for them.
Those who fed delicately are desolate in the streets. Those who were brought up in scarlet embrace ash heaps.
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 in a moment, and no hands were turned toward her.
Her princes were purer than snow. They were whiter than milk. They were more ruddy in body than rubies. Their polishing was like sapphire.
Their appearance is blacker than soot. They are not known in the streets. Their skin cleaves to their
bones. It has withered. It has become like wood.
9 Those who are slain with the sword are better off than those who are slain with hunger. For these pine away, stricken through for lack of the fruits of the field.
10 The hands of compassionate women boiled their own children. They were their food in the destruction of the daughter of my people.
11 The LORD has accomplished His fury. He has poured out His fierce anger and has kindled a fire in Zion, and it has devoured its foundations.
12 The kings of the earth and all the inhabitants of the world would not have believed that the adversary and the enemy could have entered into the gates of Jerusalem.
13 ¶ Because of the sins of her prophets and the iniquities of her priests who 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 out to them, “Depart! Unclean! Depart, depart, do not touch!” So they fled and wandered.
People among the nations said, “They will not continue to dwell with us.”
16 The anger of the LORD has divided them. He will no longer regard them. The people do not respect the priests. They do not favor the elders.
17 ¶ Yet our eyes failed. Looking for help was useless. In our watching we have watched for a nation that could not save us.
18 ¶ They hunted our steps so that we cannot go in our streets. Our end is near. Our days are fulfilled, for our end has come.
19 Our persecutors are swifter than the eagles of the heaven. They pursued us upon the mountains. They layd wait for us in the wilderness.
20 ¶ The breath of our nostrils, the anointed of the LORD, was caught in their pits, of whom we said, “Under His shadow we will live among the nations.”
21 ¶ Rejoice and be glad, O daughter of Edom who dwells in the land of Uz. The cup will also pass through to you. You will be drunken and will make yourself naked.
22 ♦ The punishment of your iniquity is completed, O daughter of Zion. He will no longer carry you away into captivity. He will visit your iniquity, O daughter of Edom. He will uncover your sins.

Chapter 5
1 ¶ Remember, ♦ O LORD, what has come upon us. Consider and behold our reproach.
2 ♦ Our inheritance has been turned over to aliens, our houses to foreigners.
3 We are orphans and fatherless. Our mothers are as ♦ widows.
4 We have to pay for our drinking water. Our wood is sold to us.
5 ♦ Our necks are under persecution. We labor and have no rest.
6 ¶ We have submitted to Egypt and Assyria to get enough bread.
7 Our fathers have sinned and are no more. And we have borne their iniquities.
8 Servants have ruled over us. There is no one who delivers us out of their hand.
9 We get our bread with the peril of our lives because of the sword of the wilderness.
10 Our skin is hot as an oven because of the terrible famine.
11 They ravished the women in Zion and the maidens in the cities of Judah.
12 Princes are hung by their hands. The faces of elders were not honored.
13 They took the young men to grind and the children fell under the loads of wood.
14 The elders have gone from the gate, the young men from their music.
15 The joy of our heart has ceased. Our dance has turned into mourning.
16 The crown has fallen from our head. Woe to us, for we have sinned!
17 Because of this our heart is faint.
18 Because of these things our eyes are dim.
19 You, O LORD, remain forever, Your throne from generation to generation.
20 Why do You forget us forever and forsake us for such a long time?
21 Turn us to You, O LORD, and we will be turned. Renew our days as of old.
22 But You have utterly rejected us. You are very angry against us.