

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 339 – The City Sits Solitary Through My Heart Is Faint (Lamentations 1:1-22)

1. As we begin studying the book of Lamentations, how is the daughter of Zion described?

Solitary, weeping, captive, mourning, afflicted for transgressions, beauty having departed, etc.: *“(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” (Lamentations 1:1-6).*

- The daughter of Zion [language we will see throughout this book], the daughter of Jerusalem, Zion, Israel, are interchange terms (**II Kings 19:21**, **Isaiah 37:22**, **Lamentations 2:13**, **Zephaniah 3:14**, and **Zechariah 9:9**) speaking of the city (**Isaiah 1:8**) and/or the people (**Lamentations 4:22**).
- The city was solitary [alone; solitary] (**Jeremiah 9:11** and **Jeremiah 25:11**).
- The city had become a tributary [forced labor] (i.e. **II Kings 23:33-35**).
- Weeping (**Jeremiah 9:19**), but not forever (**Jeremiah 29:10**; cf. **Isaiah 65:19**).
- Her lovers were not there to provide comfort (**Isaiah 51:18-19**, **Jeremiah 4:30**, and **Ezekiel 23:1-49**).
- Captive (**II Chronicles 36:20-21**, **Jeremiah 13:19**, and **Jeremiah 52:27-30**).
- The Lord had afflicted her for the multitude of her transgressions (**Exodus 23:20-21**, **Joshua 24:19-20**, **I Chronicles 28:9**, **Psalms 89:30-38**, **Isaiah 50:1**, **Jeremiah 30:14**, and **Lamentations 3:39-43**; cf. **Ezekiel 18:31**).
- She is gone without strength before the pursuer for their strength was God (**Exodus 13:14**) and He had withdrawn from them (**Isaiah 59:1-2**; cf. **Jeremiah 5:25**).

2. What had happened to the “pleasant things” of Jerusalem?

The pleasant things had become a memory, for she had given them for meat to relieve the soul: *“(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” (Lamentations 1:7-11).

- They remembered their past of “pleasant things” (**Psalms 77:1-20** and **Luke 15:11-32**).
- Jerusalem was removed because of her grievous sins (**Ezra 9:6** and **Ezekiel 14:13-21**).
- Remembering not her last end (**Deuteronomy 32:28-29**).
- The enemy magnifying himself against God’s people was NOT something God took lightly or overlooked (**Isaiah 10:5-19** and **Zephaniah 2:8-10**).
- God had given over His house to the enemy (**II Chronicles 36:17-19** and **Jeremiah 27:19-22**). The children of Israel seem to have some misunderstanding here about the instruction for them not to be in the Lord’s house. They were permitted by Him, what was instructed against was their bringing in the heathen to His house (**Leviticus 22:25** and **Ezekiel 44:7**).
- They traded their pleasant things for food (i.e. **II Kings 6:25**).

3. Were there any seeking to comfort Zion?

No: *“(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... (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... (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” (Lamentations 1:12-17; 19; 21).

- They recognized the Lord afflicted them (cf. **II Kings 17:20**), and why (**Micah 7:9**; cf. **Isaiah 59:12-13**). It times such as this there should have been focus more on the fact that they are reaping what they have sown (**Daniel 9:7-14**; cf. **Job 4:8, Hosea 8:7, Romans 2:6-10, and Galatians 6:7-9**).
- They wept because of the Lord’s wrath upon them (**Jeremiah 3:21**).
- Zion mourns that the comforter that should comfort her is far from her (**Isaiah 51:3**). No kidding (**Isaiah 48:22 and Isaiah 57:21**). The righteous would have understood this (**Psalms 119:75**).
- Jerusalem is as a menstruous woman among them (**Leviticus 15:19-27 and Ezekiel 36:17**).

4. Did Zion state that God’s judgment was righteous?

Yes: *“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” (Lamentations 1:18).*

- **Deuteronomy 31:16-18, Nehemiah 1:6-8, and Nehemiah 9:26-27**
- They, at least in words, wanted people to see what happened as a result of their sins. We should learn from the sins of others (**I Corinthians 10:1-12**).

5. Why did Zion say, “my heart is turned within me?”

“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” (Lamentations 1:20).

- For their grievous rebellion (**Deuteronomy 1:26, Deuteronomy 9:7, Isaiah 1:16-20, and Hebrews 2:1-3**). In the past they were unwilling to admit their grievous rebellion (**Jeremiah 2:23-35**). That’s why God gave them up (**Ezekiel 14:13 and again; Lamentations 1:8**).
- The sword and death (**Jeremiah 15:1-2 and Zechariah 11:6-9**).

6. What did Zion want to happen to their enemies?

For the Lord to do to their enemies what the Lord did to Zion for their sins: *“(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” (Lamentations 1:21-22).*

- All had heard of Zion’s punishment (**Jeremiah 18:15-16**).
- They wanted the wicked to suffer as they had (**Psalms 7:9-12, Psalms 38:16-22 and Ezekiel 25:1-11**).