

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 340 – The Lord’s Anger Through Terrors Round About (Lamentations 2:1-22)

1. In the Lord’s anger, was He a friend to Israel?

No: “(1) *How hath the Lord covered the daughter of Zion with a cloud in his anger, and cast down from heaven unto the earth the beauty of Israel, and remembered not his footstool in the day of his anger!* (2) *The Lord hath swallowed up all the habitations of Jacob, and hath not pitied: he hath thrown down in his wrath the strong holds of the daughter of Judah; he hath brought them down to the ground: he hath polluted the kingdom and the princes thereof.* (3) *He hath cut off in his fierce anger all the horn of Israel: he hath drawn back his right hand from before the enemy, and he burned against Jacob like a flaming fire, which devoureth round about.* (4) *He hath bent his bow like an enemy: he stood with his right hand as an adversary, and slew all that 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 hath swallowed up Israel, he hath swallowed up all her palaces: he hath destroyed his strong holds, and hath increased in the daughter of Judah mourning and lamentation”* (**Lamentations 2:1-5**).

- The cloud of His anger (**Isaiah 8:20-22**, **Jeremiah 13:16**, and **Joel 2:1-2**).
- His footstool (**Psalms 132:7**).
- God whom had pitied them in the past (**Isaiah 63:9**), now Has no pity for them (**Jeremiah 13:14** and **Zechariah 11:5-6**).
- Swallowed up (**Jeremiah 51:34**).
- God had given them safety in times of faithfulness (**Deuteronomy 12:10**), but now is withdrawing His hand of protection (**Deuteronomy 23:14**).
- He bent His bow (**Lamentations 3:12-13**) like an enemy (**Isaiah 63:10** and **Jeremiah 30:14**).
- Now as an enemy, God has increased mourning and lamentation (**Amos 8:10**).
- As an application for us all to consider today... You can see how the Lord was burning with anger and acted against His sinful people. While the Law of Moses was done away with (**Hebrews 9:15-10:18**), the Lord has not changed (**Malachi 3:6**). He will, in the Day of Judgment, have His vengeance on the disobedient (**II Thessalonians 1:8-9**).

2. Did the Lord protect the temple, His house, when He brought violence on Jerusalem?

No: “(6) *And he hath violently taken away his tabernacle, as if it were of a garden: he hath destroyed his places of the assembly: the LORD hath caused the solemn feasts and sabbaths to be forgotten in Zion, and hath despised in the indignation of his anger the king and the priest.* (7) *The Lord hath cast off his altar, he hath abhorred his sanctuary, he hath 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”* (**Lamentations 2:6-7**).

- **II Chronicles 36:17-21**, **Jeremiah 7:12-14** [cf. **Psalms 78:60-62**], and **Isaiah 64:11**

3. What reaction occurred in Jerusalem when the Lord purposed to destroy the city wall?

“(8) The LORD hath purposed to destroy the wall of the daughter of Zion: he hath stretched out a line, he hath not withdrawn his hand from destroying: therefore he made the rampart and the wall to lament; they languished together. (9) Her gates are sunk into the ground; he hath destroyed and broken her bars: her king and her princes are among the Gentiles: 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 silence: they have cast up dust upon their heads; they have girded themselves with sackcloth: the virgins of Jerusalem hang down their heads to the ground” (Lamentations 2:8-10).

- His hand of destruction (**II Kings 21:12-13**).
- Prophets found no vision (**Amos 8:11-13**).
- Their lamentation and heads to the ground (**Ezekiel 7:1-18**).

4. Did the writer of the book of Lamentations have a plan to comfort the people?

No, he couldn't: *“(11) Mine eyes do fail with tears, my bowels are troubled, my liver is poured upon the earth, for the destruction of the daughter of my people; because the children and the sucklings swoon in the streets of the city. (12) They say to their mothers, Where is corn and wine? when they swooned as the wounded in the streets of the city, when their soul was poured out into their mothers' bosom. (13) What thing shall I take to witness for thee? what thing shall I liken to thee, O daughter of Jerusalem? what shall I equal to thee, that I may comfort thee, O virgin daughter of Zion? for thy breach is great like the sea: who can heal thee” (Lamentations 2:11-13)?*

- Eyes fail with tears (**I Samuel 30:4**, **Psalms 6:7**, and **Lamentations 3:48-51**).
- Inwards troubles (**Lamentations 1:20**).
- They are troubled with famine (**Jeremiah 14:18** and **Jeremiah 21:9**).
- No comfort (**Lamentations 1:17**) or healing (**Jeremiah 8:22** and **Jeremiah 30:12-15**).
- The phrase “daughter of my people” (**Isaiah 22:4**, **Jeremiah 4:11**, **Jeremiah 6:14**, **Jeremiah 8:11**, **Jeremiah 8:19**, **Jeremiah 8:21-22**, **Jeremiah 9:1**, **Jeremiah 9:7**, **Jeremiah 14:17**, **Lamentations 3:48**, and **Lamentations 4:3; 6; 10**).

5. How did the prophets fail the people?

“Thy prophets have seen vain and foolish things for thee: and they have not discovered thine iniquity, to turn away thy captivity; but have seen for thee false burdens and causes of banishment” (Lamentations 2:14).

- **Jeremiah 5:31**, **Jeremiah 6:13-14**, **Jeremiah 8:10-11**, **Jeremiah 23:11-14**, **Jeremiah 27:14-17**, **Jeremiah 29:8-9**, **Ezekiel 13:2-16**, and **II Peter 2:18-20**

6. What did the enemies of Judah do in Judah's time of judgment?

They rejoiced: "(15) *All that pass by clap their hands at thee; 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 thine enemies have opened their mouth against thee: they hiss and gnash the teeth: they say, We have swallowed her up: certainly this is the day that we looked for; we have found, we have seen it. (17) The LORD hath done that which he had devised; he hath fulfilled his word that he had commanded in the days of old: he hath thrown down, and hath not pitied: and he hath caused thine enemy to rejoice over thee, he hath set up the horn of thine adversaries*" (**Lamentations 2:15-17**).

- Zion was the perfection of beauty (**Psalms 48:2** and **Psalms 50:2**).
- At this point, it had become something to behold, be astonished, mock, and wag one's head over (**Psalms 44:14-15**, **Jeremiah 18:16**, **Jeremiah 19:8**, **Lamentations 3:46**, and **Zephaniah 2:15**).
- This was the doing of the Lord with no pity for them (**Jeremiah 18:11**, **Ezekiel 5:11**, and **Ezekiel 22:1-5**).

7. Why were the people told to cry out in the night and to lift up their hands toward God?

They were to cry to God for whom and what they suffered: "(18) *Their heart cried unto the Lord, O wall of the daughter of Zion, let tears run down like a river day and night: give thyself no rest; let not the apple of thine eye cease. (19) Arise, cry out in the night: in the beginning of the watches pour out thine heart like water before the face of the Lord: lift up thy hands toward him for the life of thy young children, that faint for hunger in the top of every street. (20) Behold, O LORD, and consider to whom thou hast done this. Shall the women eat their fruit, and children of a span long? shall 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 are fallen by the sword; thou hast slain them in the day of thine anger; thou hast killed, and not pitied. (22) Thou hast called as in a solemn day my terrors round about, so that in the day of the LORD'S anger none escaped nor remained: those that I have swaddled and brought up hath mine enemy consumed*" (**Lamentations 2:18-22**).

- The Lord had not been pitiful upon them, so this desperate cry for pity was to be made. They were to pour out their hearts to Him (**Psalms 142:2**).
- Here is the problem, GOD TOLD THEM THIS WOULD COME (**Jeremiah 13:14** and **Jeremiah 21:7**).
- God reaches a point wherein enough is enough and He will not spare (**Proverbs 1:22-31** and **Hebrews 10:22-39**).
- They had become accustomed to doing evil (**Jeremiah 13:21-27**). God considered them GONE (**Jeremiah 5:23**).
- Yes, the women were going to eat their children (**Jeremiah 19:9**).
- Yes, the priest and prophet were to suffer too (**Jeremiah 23:34**).
- All would suffer, young and old, without mercy (**II Chronicles 36:17**).
- Who would dare think they could escape the judgment of God (**Romans 2:3**)?