

LAMENTATIONS OF JEREMIAH

CHAPTER 1

And it came to pass, after Israel was taken captive, and Jerusalem made desolate, that Jeremiah sat weeping, and lamented this lamentation over Jerusalem, and said,

¹How doth the city sit solitary, that was full of people! she is become as a widow: she that was magnified among the nations, *and* princess among the provinces, is become tributary. ²She weepeth sore in the night, and her tears are on her cheeks: and there is none of her lovers to comfort her: all they that were her friends have dealt treacherously with her, they are become her enemies. ³Judah is gone into captivity because of her affliction, and because of the greatness of her servitude: she dwelleth among the nations, she hath found no rest: all her pursuers have overtaken her between her oppressors. ⁴The ways of Zion do mourn, because there are none that come to the feast: all her gates are ruined: her priests groan, her virgins are led captive, and she is in bitterness in herself. ⁵Her oppressors are become the chief, and her enemies have prospered; for the Lord hath afflicted her because of the multitude of her ungodlinesses: her young children are gone into captivity before the face of the oppressor. ⁶And from the daughter of Zion all her beauty is taken away: her princes were as rams finding no pasture, and they are gone in weakness before the face of the pursuer. ⁷Jerusalem remembered the days of her affliction and her rejection, all her desirable things which were from the days of old, when her people fell into the hands of the oppressor, and there was none to help her: when her enemies saw it, they did laugh at her habitation. ⁸Jerusalem hath grievously sinned; therefore is she come into tribulation: all that honoured her have afflicted her, for they have seen her shame: yea, she herself did groan, and turn backward. ⁹Her uncleanness is before her feet; she remembered not her last end; she hath lowered her boastings, there is none to comfort her. O Lord, behold mine affliction: for the enemy hath magnified himself. ¹⁰The oppressor hath stretched out his hand upon all her desirable things: for she hath seen the heathen enter into her sanctuary, when Thou didst command that they should not enter into Thy congregation. ¹¹All her people groan, seeking bread: they have given their desirable things for meat to restore their soul: see, O Lord, and consider; for she is become dishonoured. ¹²All ye that pass by the way, turn, and see if there be sorrow like unto my sorrow, which hath befallen me. The Lord that did speak by me hath afflicted me in the day of His fierce anger. ¹³From His lofty habitation hath He sent fire, He hath brought it into my bones: He hath spread a net for my feet, He hath turned me back: He hath made me desolate *and* mourning all the day. ¹⁴He hath watched over my sins; they are wreathed about my hands, they are come up upon my neck: my strength hath failed; for the Lord hath laid pains upon my hands, I shall not be able to stand. ¹⁵The Lord hath cut off all my mighty men from the midst of

me: He hath summoned against me a time to crush my choice men: the Lord hath trodden a winepress for the virgin daughter of Judah: for these things I weep. ¹⁶Mine eye hath poured out water, because he that should comfort me, that should restore my soul, hath been removed far from me: my sons are destroyed, because the enemy hath prevailed. ¹⁷Zion hath spread forth her hand, and there is none to comfort her: the Lord hath commanded *concerning* Jacob, his oppressors are round about him: Jerusalem is become as a menstruous woman among them. ¹⁸The Lord is righteous; for I have provoked His mouth: hear, I pray you, all peoples, and behold my sorrow: my virgins and my young men are gone into captivity. ¹⁹I called to my lovers, but they deceived me: my priests and my elders failed in the city; for they sought meat that they might restore their souls, and found *it* not. ²⁰Behold, O Lord, for I am afflicted: my belly is troubled, and mine heart is turned within me; for I have been grievously rebellious: abroad the sword hath bereaved me, even as death at home. ²¹Hear, I pray you, for I groan; there is none to comfort me: all mine enemies have heard of mine troubles, and are glad, for that Thou hast done it: Thou hast brought on the day, Thou hast called the time: they are become like unto me. ²²Let all their wickedness come before Thy face; and strip Thou them, as they have made a gleaning for all my sins: for my groans are many, and my heart is grieved.

CHAPTER 2

How hath the Lord covered the daughter of Zion with darkness in His anger! He hath cast down from heaven the glory of Israel, and remembered not His footstool. ²In the day of His anger the Lord hath overwhelmed her as in the sea, and hath not spared: He hath brought down in His wrath all the beauties of Jacob; He hath brought down to the ground the strong holds of the daughter of Judah: He hath profaned her king and her princes. ³He hath broken in His fierce anger all the horn of Israel: He hath turned back His right hand from before the face of the enemy, and hath kindled a flame in Jacob as fire, and it hath devoured all things round about. ⁴He hath bent His bow like an opposing enemy: He hath strengthened His right hand as an adversary, and destroyed all the desirable things of mine eyes in the tabernacle of the daughter of Zion: He poured out His fury like fire. ⁵The Lord is become as an enemy: He hath overwhelmed Israel as in the sea, He hath overwhelmed her palaces: He hath destroyed His strong holds, and hath multiplied to the daughter of Judah all the afflicted and humbled. ⁶And He hath scattered His tabernacle, as it were a vine, He hath marred His feast: the Lord hath forgotten the feast and the sabbath which He appointed in Zion, and hath vexed in the fury of His wrath the king and the priest and the prince. ⁷The Lord hath rejected His altar, He hath cast off His sanctuary, He hath broken by the hand of the enemy the wall of her palaces; they have uttered their voice in the house of the Lord, as in a feast day. ⁸And He hath turned to destroy the wall of the daughter of Zion: He hath stretched out the measuring line, He

hath not turned back from afflicting her: therefore the bulwark mourned, and the wall was weakened with it. ⁹Her gates are sunk into the ground; He hath destroyed and broken her bars to pieces; her king and her princes *are* among the Gentiles: there is no law; her prophets also have seen no vision from the Lord. ¹⁰The elders of the daughter of Zion have sat upon the ground, they have kept silence: they have cast up dust upon their heads; they have girded themselves with sackcloth: they have brought the chief virgins in Jerusalem down to the ground. ¹¹Mine eyes have failed with tears, my bowels are troubled, my glory is poured out to the earth, for the destruction of the daughter of my people; while the infant and the suckling swoon in the streets of the city. ¹²They said 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 mother's bosom. ¹³What thing shall I take to witness for thee, or what thing shall I liken to thee, O daughter of Jerusalem? who shall save and comfort thee, O virgin daughter of Zion? for the cup of thy destruction is enlarged: who shall heal thee? ¹⁴Thy prophets have seen vanities and foolish things for thee: and they have not discovered thine iniquity, to turn back thy captivity; but have seen for thee vain burdens and unprofitable burdens. ¹⁵All that pass by the way clapped their hands at thee; they hissed and wagged their head at the daughter of Jerusalem. Is this the city, say they, the crown of joy of all the earth? ¹⁶All thine enemies have opened their mouth against thee: they have hissed and gnashed their teeth, and have said, We have swallowed her up: moreover this is the day that we have looked for; we have found, we have seen it. ¹⁷the Lord hath done that which He had purposed; He hath accomplished His word, even the things that He hath commanded from the days of old: He hath thrown down, and hath not spared: and He hath caused the enemy to rejoice over thee, He hath set up the horn of him that afflicted thee. ¹⁸Their heart cried unto the Lord, O walls of Zion, pour down tears like torrents day and night: give thyself no rest; let not the daughter of thine eye cease. ¹⁹Arise, rejoice in the night in the beginning of the watch: pour out thine heart like water before the face of the Lord: lift up thine hands toward Him for the life of thy young children, that faint for hunger in the top of all the streets. ²⁰Behold, O Lord, and consider for whom Thou hast gathered thus. Shall the women eat the fruit of their womb? the cook hath made a gathering: shall the infants sucking at the breast be slain? wilt Thou slay the priest and the prophet in the sanctuary of the Lord? ²¹The child and the old man have lain down in the street: my virgins and my young men are gone into captivity: Thou hast slain them with the sword and with famine; in the day of Thy wrath hast Thou mangled them, Thou hast not spared. ²²He hath called to a solemn day my sojourners round about, and in the day of the wrath of the Lord there was not any that escaped nor remained; seeing I have strengthened and multiplied all mine enemies.

CHAPTER 3

I am the man that seeth poverty by the rod of His wrath upon me. ²He hath taken me, and led me away into darkness, and not into light. ³Surely against me hath he turned His hand all the day. ⁴My flesh and my skin hath He made old; He hath broken my bones. ⁵He hath builded against me, and compassed mine head, and brought travail upon me. ⁶He hath set me in dark places, as they that have been long dead. ⁷He hath builded against me, and I cannot come forth: He hath made my brass chain heavy. ⁸Yea, though I cry and shout, He shutteth out my prayer. ⁹He hath builded up my ways, He hath hedged my paths; ¹⁰He hath troubled me, as a she bear lying in wait: He is to me as a lion in secret places. ¹¹He hath pursued me after I departed, and brought me to a stand: He hath utterly ruined me. ¹²He hath bent His bow, and set me as a mark for the arrow. ¹³He hath caused the arrows of His quiver to enter into my reins. ¹⁴I became a derision to all my people; and their song all the day. ¹⁵He hath filled me with bitterness, He hath made me drunken with gall. ¹⁶He hath also dashed out my teeth with gravel stones, He hath fed me with ashes. ¹⁷He hath also removed my soul from peace: I forgot good things. ¹⁸Therefore I said, My success hath perished, and my hope from the Lord. ¹⁹I remembered by reason of my poverty, and because of my persecution; my bitterness and gall shall I have in remembrance; ²⁰and my soul shall meditate with me. ²¹This will I lay up in my heart, therefore will I endure. ²²It is of the Lord's mercies that He hath not failed me, because His tender mercies are not exhausted. Pity us, O Lord, early every month: for we are not brought to an end, because His tender mercies are not exhausted. ²³They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness. ²⁴The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I wait for Him. ²⁵The Lord is good unto them that wait for Him: the soul that shall seek Him ²⁶is good, and shall await and quietly expect salvation of the Lord. ²⁷It is good for a man when he beareth a yoke in his youth. ²⁸He will sit alone and keep silence, because he hath borne it upon him. ²⁹He will give his cheek to him that smiteth him: he will be filled full with reproaches. ³⁰For the Lord will not cast off for ever. ³¹For He that hath brought down will pity, and that according to the multitude of His mercy. ³²He hath not answered from His heart, though He hath brought low the children of a man. ³³To bring down under His foot all the prisoners of the earth, ³⁴to turn aside the judgment of a man before the face of the Most High, ³⁵to condemn a man in His judgment, the Lord hath not given commandment. ³⁶Who hath thus spoken, and it hath come to pass? the Lord hath not commanded it. ³⁷Out of the mouth of the Lord there shall not come forth evil and good. ³⁸Wherefore should a living man complain, a man concerning his sin? ³⁹Our way is searched out and examined, and we will turn unto the Lord. ⁴⁰Let us lift up our hearts with our hands unto the lofty One in heaven. ⁴¹We have sinned, we have transgressed; and Thou hast not been propitious. ⁴²Thou hast visited us in wrath, and driven us away: Thou hast slain, Thou hast not pitied. ⁴³Thou hast veiled Thyself with a cloud because of prayer, that I might be blind, ⁴⁴and be cast

off. Thou hast set us in the midst of the nations. ⁴⁶All our enemies have opened their mouth against us. ⁴⁷Fear and wrath are come upon us, uplifting and destruction. ⁴⁸Mine eye shall pour down torrents of water, for the destruction of the daughter of my people. ⁴⁹Mine eye is drowned *with tears*, and I will not keep silence, so that there shall be no rest, ⁵⁰till the Lord look down, and behold from heaven. ⁵¹Mine eye shall gather upon my soul, because of all the daughters of the city. ⁵²The fowlers chased me like a sparrow, all mine enemies destroyed my life in a pit without a cause, ⁵³and laid a stone upon me. ⁵⁴Water flowed over mine head; I said, I am cut off. ⁵⁵I called upon Thy name, O Lord, out of the lowest dungeon. ⁵⁶Thou hast heard my voice: close not Thine ears unto my supplication. ⁵⁷Thou drewest near to my help: in the day that I called upon Thee, Thou saidst unto me, Fear not. ⁵⁸O Lord, Thou hast pleaded the causes of my soul; Thou hast redeemed my life. ⁵⁹O Lord, Thou hast seen my troubles: Thou hast judged my cause. ⁶⁰Thou hast seen all their vengeance, all their imaginations against me. ⁶¹Thou hast heard their reproach, all their imaginations against me; ⁶²the lips of those that rose up against me, and their devices against me all the day; ⁶³their sitting down, and their rising up: look Thou upon their eyes. ⁶⁴Thou wilt render unto them a recompence, O Lord, according to the works of their hands. ⁶⁵Thou wilt give them a covering the sorrow of mine heart. ⁶⁶Thou wilt persecute them in anger, and consume them from under the heavens, O Lord.

CHAPTER 4

How will the gold become dim, the fine silver changed! The sacred stones are poured out in the top of all the streets. ²The precious sons of Zion that were exalted in gold, how are they esteemed as earthen vessels, the works of the hands of the potter! ³Even the serpents have drawn out the breasts, they give suck to their young ones, the daughters of my people are incurably cruel, like an ostrich in the desert. ⁴The tongue of the sucking child cleaveth to the roof of his mouth for thirst: the little children ask bread, *and* there is none to break *it* unto them. ⁵They that feed upon delicate things are desolate in the streets: they that were nursed in scarlet have clothed themselves with dung. ⁶And the iniquity of the daughter of my people is increased beyond the iniquities of Sodom, that was overthrown very suddenly, and none did labour against her *with their* hands. ⁷Her Nazarites were made purer than snow, they were whiter than milk, they were purified as with fire, their polishing was of sapphire. ⁸Their visage is become blacker than smoke; they are not known in the streets: their skin hath cleaved to their bones; they are withered, they are become like a stick. ⁹They that were slain with the sword were better than they that were slain with hunger: they have departed, pierced through *from want* of the fruits of the field. ¹⁰The hands of the compassionate women have sodden their own children: they became meat for

them in the destruction of the daughter of my people. ¹¹The Lord hath accomplished His wrath; He hath poured out His fierce anger, and hath kindled a fire in Zion, and it hath devoured her foundations. ¹²The kings of the earth, even all the inhabitants of the world, believed not that an enemy and oppressor would enter through the gates of Jerusalem. ¹³For the sins of her prophets, and the iniquities of her priests, that have shed righteous blood in the midst of her. ¹⁴Her watchmen staggered in the streets, they were defiled with blood in their weakness, they touched their raiment. ¹⁵Depart ye from the unclean; call ye them: depart, depart, touch *them* not: for they are on fire, yea, they stagger: say ye among the nations, They shall no more sojourn *there*. ¹⁶The presence of the Lord was their portion; but he will no more regard them: they accepted not the person of the priests, they pitied not the elders. ¹⁷While ye yet lived our eyes, while we looked in vain for help. We have watched for a nation that could not save. ¹⁸We have hunted for our little ones, that they should not walk in our streets. Our time is drawn near, our days are fulfilled, our time is come. ¹⁹Our persecutors were swifter than the eagles of the heaven, they flew upon the mountains, they laid wait for us in the wilderness. ²⁰The breath of our nostrils, the anointed Lord, was taken in their destructive snares, of whom we said, In his shadow we shall live among the nations. ²¹Rejoice and be glad, O daughter of Edom, that dwellest in the land; yet the cup of the Lord shall pass through to thee: thou shalt be drunken, and pour forth. ²²O daughter of Zion, thine iniquity is come to an end; He will no more carry thee captive: He hath visited thine iniquities, O daughter of Edom; He hath discovered thy sins.

CHAPTER 5

Remember, O Lord, what is come upon us: behold, and look upon our reproach. ²Our inheritance is turned away to aliens, our houses to strangers; ³we are become orphans, we have no father, our mothers are as widows. ⁴We have drunken our water for money; our wood is sold unto us for a burden upon our neck: ⁵we have been persecuted, we have laboured, we have had no rest. ⁶Egypt gave the hand *unto us*, Assyria unto their own satisfaction. ⁷Our fathers sinned, *and* are not: we have borne their iniquities. ⁸Servants have ruled over us: there is none to redeem us out of their hand. ⁹We shall bring in our bread with *the peril of* our lives because of the sword of the wilderness. ¹⁰Our skin is blackened like an oven; they are convulsed because of the storms of famine. ¹¹They humbled the women in Zion, the maids in the cities of Judah. ¹²Princes were hanged up by their hands: the elders were not honoured. ¹³The choice men lifted up the millstone, and the youths fainted under the wood. ¹⁴And the elders have ceased from the gate, the choice men from their musick. ¹⁵The joy of our heart is ceased; our dance is turned into mourning. ¹⁶The crown is fallen from our head: yea, woe unto us, for we have sinned! ¹⁷For this grief is come; our heart is sorrowful: for this our eyes are

darkened. ¹⁸Over the mountain of Zion, because it is made desolate, foxes have walked therein. ¹⁹But Thou, O Lord, shalt dwell for ever; Thy throne unto generation and generation. ²⁰Wherefore wilt Thou utterly forget us, and forsake us so long time? ²¹Turn us unto Thee, O Lord, and we shall be turned; and renew our days as before. ²²For Thou hast indeed rejected us; Thou hast been very wroth against us.