

The Book of
The Lamentations
of Jeremiah

1 The Sorrows of captive Zion. 2:1 Zion's Sorrows come from the LORD. 3:19 Hope of Relief through God's Mercy.

1 How doth the city sit solitary, that was full of people!
She is become as a widow, that was great among the nations!
She that was a princess among the provinces is 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 ¹captivity because of affliction, and because of great servitude;
She dwelleth among the nations, she findeth no rest:
All her persecutors overtook her within the straits.
4 *The* ways of Zion do mourn, because none come to *the* ²solemn assembly;
All her gates are desolate, her priests do sigh:
Her virgins are afflicted, and she herself is in bitterness.
5 Her adversaries are become *the* head, her enemies prosper;
For Jehovah hath afflicted her for *the* multitude of her transgressions:
Her young children are gone into captivity before *the* adversary.
6 And from *the* daughter of Zion all her ³majesty is departed:
Her princes are become like harts that find no pasture,
And they are gone without strength before *the* pursuer.
7 Jerusalem remembereth in *the* days of her affliction and of her ⁴miseries all her pleasant things that were from *the* days of old:
When her people fell into *the* hand of *the* adversary, and none did help her,
The adversaries saw her, they did mock at her ⁵desolations.
8 Jerusalem hath grievously sinned; therefore she ⁶is become as an unclean thing;

All that honored her dispise her, because they have seen her nakedness:
Yes, she sigheth, and turneth backward.
9 Her filthiness was in her skirts; she remembered not her latter end;
Therefore is she come down wonderfully; she hath no comforter:
Behold, O Jehovah, 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* nations are entered into her ⁷sanctuary,
Concerning whom thou didst command that they should not enter into thine assembly.
11 All her people sigh, they seek bread;
They have given their pleasant things for food to refresh *the* soul:
See, O Jehovah, and behold; for I am become abject.
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 brought upon me,
⁸Wherewith Jehovah hath afflicted *me* in *the* day of his fierce anger.
13 From on high hath he sent fire into my bones, and ⁹it 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 knit together, they are come up upon my neck; he hath made my strength to ¹⁰fail:
¹¹Jehovah hath delivered me into their hands,
¹²against whom I am not able to stand.
15 Jehovah hath set at nought all my mighty men in *the* midst of me;
He hath called a solemn assembly against me to crush my young men:
Jehovah hath trodden as in a winepress *the* virgin daughter of Judah.

¹ *Or*, exile

² *Or*, appointed feast;

³ *Or*, beauty

⁴ *Or*, wanderings

⁵ *Hb.* ceasings.

⁶ *Or*, is removed as an unclean thing;

⁷ *Or perhaps*, Holy, *And so elsewhere.*

⁸ *Or*, Whom Jehovah hath afflicted in *the* day of *etc.*

⁹ *So* Massoretic. 4QLam, Sept. *read* he has brought it down; Lamsa says, it has brought me low;

¹⁰ *Hb.* stumble:

¹¹ Sopherim *changed to The Lord Also twice in vs. 15.*

¹² *Or*, from whom I am not able to rise up.

16 For these things I weep; mine eye, mine eye runneth down with water;
Because *the* comforter that should refresh my soul is far from me:
My children are desolate, because *the* enemy hath prevailed.

17 Zion spreadeth forth her hands; there is none to comfort her;
Jehovah hath commanded concerning Jacob, *that they that are round about him should be his adversaries*:
Jerusalem is among them as an unclean thing.

18 Jehovah is righteous; for I have rebelled against his commandment:
Hear, I pray you, all ye peoples, and behold my sorrow:
My virgins and my young men are gone into captivity.

19 I called for my lovers, *but* they deceived me:
My priests and mine elders gave up *the* breath in the city,
While they sought them food to refresh their souls.

20 Behold, O Jehovah; for I *am* in distress; my heart is troubled;
My heart is turned within me; for I have grievously rebelled:
Abroad *the* sword bereaveth, at home *there is* as death.

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 proclaimed, 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.

2 How hath ¹³Jehovah covered the daughter of Zion with a cloud in his anger!
He hath cast down from heaven unto *the* earth *the* beauty of Israel,
And hath not remembered his footstool in *the* day of his anger.

2 Jehovah hath swallowed up all the habitations of Jacob, and hath not pitied:
He hath thrown down in his wrath the strongholds of the daughter of Judah;
He hath brought *them* down to the ground; he hath profaned the kingdom and the princes thereof.

3 He hath cut off in fierce anger ¹⁴all *the* horn of Israel;

¹³ Sopherim *changed to the* Lord *And in* vss. 2, 5, 7.

¹⁴ *Or*, every horn of Israel;

He hath drawn back his right hand from before *the* enemy:
And he hath burned up Jacob like a flaming fire, *which* devoureth round about.

4 He hath bent his bow like an enemy, he hath stood with his right hand as an adversary,
And hath slain all *that were* pleasant to *the* eye:
¹⁵In *the* tent of *the* daughter of Zion he hath poured out his wrath like fire.

5 Jehovah is become as an enemy, he hath swallowed up Israel;
He hath swallowed up all her palaces, he hath destroyed his strongholds;
And he hath multiplied in *the* daughter of Judah mourning and lamentation.

6 And he hath violently taken away his ¹⁶tabernacle, as *if it were of a* garden; he hath destroyed his place of assembly:
Jehovah hath caused ¹⁷solemn assembly and sabbath to be forgotten in Zion,
And hath despised in *the* indignation of his anger *the* king and *the* priest.

7 Jehovah 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 Jehovah, as in *the* day of a solemn assembly.

8 Jehovah hath purposed to destroy *the* wall of *the* daughter of Zion;
He hath stretched out *the* line, he hath not withdrawn his hand from ¹⁸destroying:
And he hath made *the* rampart and wall to lament; they languish together.

9 Her gates are sunk into the ground; he hath destroyed and broken her bars:
Her king and her princes *are* among the nations *where the law is* not;
Yes, her prophets find no vision from Jehovah.

10 *The* elders of *the* daughter of Zion sit upon the ground, they 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.

11 Mine eyes do fail with tears, my heart is troubled;
My liver is poured upon the earth, because of *the* ¹⁹destruction of *the* daughter of my people,
Because *the* young children and *the* sucklings swoon in *the* streets of the city.

¹⁵ *Or*, on

¹⁶ *Or*, booth, *or*, hedge,

¹⁷ *Or*, appointed feast and sabbath

¹⁸ *Hb.* swallowing up:

¹⁹ *Or*, breach

- 12 They say to their mothers, Where *is* grain and wine?
When they swoon as the wounded in *the* streets of
the city,
When their soul is poured out into their mothers'
bosom.
- 13 What shall I ²⁰testify unto thee? what shall I liken to
thee, O daughter of Jerusalem?
What shall I compare to thee, that I may comfort
thee, O virgin daughter of Zion?
For thy breach *is* great like the sea: who can heal
thee?
- 14 Thy prophets have seen for thee false and foolish
visions;
And they have not uncovered thine iniquity, to bring
back thy captivity,
But have seen for thee false ²¹oracles and ²²causes of
banishment.
- 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* called *The* perfection of
beauty, *The* joy of the whole earth?
- 16 All thine enemies have opened their mouth wide
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 Jehovah hath done *that* which he purposed; he hath
²³fulfilled his word that he commanded in *the* days
of old;
He hath thrown down, and hath not pitied:
And he hath caused *the* enemy to rejoice over thee;
he hath exalted *the* horn of thine adversaries.
- 18 Their heart cried unto ²⁴Jehovah:
O wall of *the* daughter of Zion, let tears run down
like *a* river day and night;
Give thyself no respite; let not *the* apple of thine eye
cease.
- 19 Arise, cry out in the night, at *the* beginning of *the*
watches;
Pour out thy heart like water before *the* face of
Jehovah:
Lift up thy hands toward him for *the* soul of thy
young children, *that* faint for hunger at *the* head of
every street.
- 20 See, O Jehovah, and behold to whom thou hast done
thus!
Shall *the* women eat their fruit, *the* children that are
dandled in *the* hands?

²⁰ *Or*, take to witness for thee

²¹ *Hb.* burdens

²² *Or*, things to draw thee aside.

²³ *Or*, finished

²⁴ Sopherim *changed to the* Lord: *And in* vs. 19.

- Shall *the* priest and *the* prophet be slain in *the*
sanctuary of ²⁵Jehovah?
- 21 *The* youth and *the* old man 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 slaughtered, *and* not pitied.
- 22 Thou hast called, as in *the* day of a solemn assembly,
my terrors on every side;
And there was none that escaped or remained in *the*
day of Jehovah's anger:
Those that I have dandled and brought up hath mine
enemy consumed.
- 3** I *am* the man *that* hath seen affliction by *the* rod of
his wrath.
- 2 He hath led me and caused *me* to walk *in* darkness,
²⁶and not *in* light.
- 3 Surely against me he turneth his hand again and
again all the day.
- 4 My flesh and my skin hath he ²⁷made old; he hath
broken my bones.
- 5 He hath builded against me, and compassed *me* with
gall and travail.
- 6 He hath made me to dwell in dark places, as *those*
that have been long dead.
- 7 He hath walled me about, that I cannot go forth;
he hath made my chain heavy.
- 8 Yes, when I cry, and call for help, he shutteth out
my prayer.
- 9 He hath walled up my ways with hewn stone;
he hath made my paths crooked.
- 10 He *is* unto me *as* a bear lying in wait, *as* a lion in
secret places.
- 11 He hath turned aside my ways, and pulled me in
pieces; he hath made me desolate.
- 12 He hath bent his bow, and set me *as* a mark for the
arrow.
- 13 He hath caused *the* ²⁸shafts of his quiver to enter
into my kidneys.
- 14 I am become a derision to all my people, *and* their
song all the day.
- 15 He hath filled me with bitterness, he hath sated me
with wormwood.
- 16 He hath also broken my teeth with gravel stones;
he hath covered me with ashes.
- 17 And thou hast ²⁹removed my soul far off from
peace; I have forgotten prosperity.

²⁵ Sopherim *changed to the* Lord

²⁶ *Or*, without light.

²⁷ *Or*, worn out;

²⁸ *Hb.* sons

²⁹ *Or*, cast off my soul

18 And I said, My strength is perished, and mine expectation from Jehovah.
 19 Remember mine affliction and my ³⁰misery, *the wormwood and the gall.*
 20 Truly, *thou* rememberest, and ³¹thy soul boweth down over me.
 21 This I bring back to my heart; therefore have I hope.
 22 *It is of Jehovah's* lovingkindness that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.
 23 *They are* new every morning; great *is* thy faithfulness.
 24 Jehovah *is* my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.
 25 Jehovah *is* good unto them that wait for him, to *the* soul *that* seeketh him.
 26 *It is* good that *a man* should hope and quietly wait for *the* salvation of Jehovah.
 27 *It is* good for *a man* that he bear *the* yoke in his youth.
 28 ³²Let him sit alone and keep silence, because he hath laid *it* upon him.
 29 Let him put his mouth in the dust, if so be there may be hope.
 30 Let him give *his* cheek to him that smiteth him; let him be filled full with reproach.
 31 For ³³Jehovah will not cast off for ever.
 32 For though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to *the* multitude of his lovingkindnesses.
 33 For he doth not afflict ³⁴willingly, nor grieve *the* children of men.
 34 To crush under foot 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, Jehovah ³⁵approveth not.
 37 Who *is* he *that* saith, and it cometh to pass, *when* Jehovah commandeth *it* not?
 38 Out of *the* mouth of *the* Most High cometh there not evil and good?
 39 Wherefore doth a living man complain, ³⁶a man for *the* punishment of his sins?
 40 Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to Jehovah.
 41 Let us lift up our heart with *our* hands unto God in the heavens.
 42 We have transgressed and have rebelled; thou hast not pardoned.

³⁰ *Or*, wandering, *or*, outcast state,

³¹ Sopherim *changed to* my soul

³² *Or*, He sitteth *etc.* And so through vss. 28-30.

³³ Sopherim *changed to the* Lord And in vss. 36, 37.

³⁴ *Hb.* from his heart,

³⁵ *Hb.* seeth not.

³⁶ *Or*, a man *that is* in his sins

43 Thou hast ³⁷covered with anger and pursued us; thou hast slain, thou hast not pitied.
 44 Thou hast covered thyself with *a* cloud, so that no prayer can pass through.
 45 Thou hast made us an offscouring and refuse in *the* midst of the peoples.
 46 All our enemies have opened their mouth wide against us.
 47 Fear and *the* pit are come upon us, ³⁸devastation and destruction.
 48 Mine eye runneth down with streams of water, for the destruction of the daughter of my people.
 49 Mine eye poureth down, and ceaseth not, without any intermission,
 50 Till Jehovah look down, and behold from heaven.
 51 Mine eye affecteth my soul, because of all *the* daughters of my city.
 52 They have chased me sore like *a* bird, they *that* are mine enemies without cause.
 53 They have cut off my life in the dungeon, and have cast a stone upon me.
 54 Waters flowed over my head; I said, I am cut off.
 55 I called upon thy name, O Jehovah, out of *the* lowest dungeon.
 56 Thou heardest my voice; hide not thine ear at my breathing, at my cry.
 57 Thou drewest near in *the* day *that* I called upon thee; thou saidst, Fear not.
 58 ³⁹O Jehovah, thou hast pleaded *the* causes of my soul; thou hast ransomed my life.
 59 O Jehovah, thou hast seen my wrong; judge thou my cause.
 60 Thou hast seen all their vengeance *and* all their devices against me.
 61 Thou hast heard their reproach, O Jehovah, *and* all their devices against me,
 62 *The* lips of those that rose up against me, and their device against me all the day.
 63 Behold thou their sitting down, and their rising up; *I am* their song.
 64 Thou wilt render unto them a recompense, O Jehovah, according to *the* work of their hands.
 65 Thou wilt give them ⁴⁰hardness of heart, thy curse unto them.
 66 Thou wilt pursue them in anger, and destroy them from under *the* heavens of Jehovah.

4 How is *the* gold become dim! *how* is the most pure gold changed!
 The stones of the Holy are poured out at *the* head of every street.

³⁷ *Or*, covered *thyself* with anger

³⁸ *Or*, the tumult

³⁹ Sopherim *changed to* O Lord,

⁴⁰ *Or*, blindness *Hb.* covering

- 2 The precious sons of Zion, ⁴¹comparable to fine gold,
How are they esteemed as earthen pitchers, *the work of the hands of the potter!*
- 3 Even *the* jackals draw out *the* breast, they give suck to their young ones:
The daughter of my people is become cruel, like *the* ostriches in the wilderness.
- 4 *The tongue of the sucking child cleaveth to the roof of his mouth for thirst:*
The young children ask bread, and no man breaketh it unto them.
- 5 They that did feed delicately are desolate in the streets:
They that were brought up in scarlet embrace dunghills.
- 6 For ⁴²*the* iniquity of *the* daughter of my people is greater than ⁴³*the* sin of Sodom,
That was overthrown as in a moment, and no hands ⁴⁴were laid upon her.
- 7 Her ⁴⁵nobles were purer than snow, they were whiter than milk;
They were more ruddy in body than ⁴⁶rubies, their polishing *was as of* sapphire.
- 8 Their visage is ⁴⁷blacker than a coal; they are not known in the streets:
Their skin cleaveth to their bones; it is withered, it is become like *a* stick.
- 9 *They that are* slain with *the* sword are better than *they that are* slain with hunger;
For these ⁴⁸pine away, stricken through, for *want of the fruits of the field.*
- 10 *The hands of the pitiful women have boiled their own children;*
They were their food in the destruction of *the* daughter of my people.
- 11 Jehovah hath accomplished his wrath, he hath poured out his fierce anger;
And he hath kindled a fire in Zion, which hath devoured *the* foundations thereof.
- 12 *The kings of the earth believed not, neither all the inhabitants of the world,*
That *the* adversary and *the* enemy would enter into *the* gates of Jerusalem.
- 13 *It is* because of *the* sins of her prophets, *and the* iniquities of her priests,

⁴¹ *Hb.* that may be weighed against gold,

⁴² *Or, the punishment of the iniquity of etc.*

⁴³ *Or, the punishment of the sin of Sodom,*

⁴⁴ *Or, fell upon her. See 2Sa 3:29.*

⁴⁵ *Or, Nazirites*

⁴⁶ *Or, corals,*

⁴⁷ *Hb.* darker than blackness;

⁴⁸ *Hb.* flow away,

That have shed *the* blood of *the* just in *the* midst of her.

- 14 They wander *as* blind *men* in the streets, they are polluted with blood,
So that men cannot touch their garments.
- 15 Depart ye, they cried unto them, Unclean! depart, depart, touch not!
⁴⁹When they fled away and wandered, men said among the nations, They shall no more sojourn *here.*
- 16 *The* ⁵⁰anger of Jehovah hath scattered them; he will no more regard them:
They respected not *the* persons of *the* priests, they favored not *the* elders.
- 17 Our eyes do yet fail *in looking* for our vain help:
In our watching we have watched for a nation *that* could not save.
- 18 They hunt our steps, so that we cannot go in our streets:
Our end is near, our days are fulfilled; for our end is come.
- 19 Our pursuers were swifter than *the* eagles of *the* heavens:
They chased us upon the mountains, they laid wait for us in the wilderness.
- 20 *The* breath of our nostrils, *the* anointed of Jehovah, was taken in their pits;
Of whom we said, Under his shadow we shall live among the nations.
- 21 Rejoice and be glad, O daughter of Edom, that dwellest in *the* land of Uz:
The cup shall pass through unto thee also; thou shalt be drunken, and shalt make thyself naked.
- 22 ⁵¹*The punishment of* thine iniquity is accomplished, O daughter of Zion; he will no more carry thee away into captivity:
He will visit thine iniquity, O daughter of Edom; he will uncover thy sins.
- 5 Remember, O Jehovah, what is come upon us:
Behold, and see our reproach.
- 2 Our inheritance is turned unto strangers,
Our houses unto aliens.
- 3 We are orphans and fatherless;
Our mothers *are* as widows.
- 4 We have drunken our water for money;
Our wood ⁵²is sold unto us.
- 5 Our pursuers *are* upon our necks:
We are weary, *and* have no rest.
- 6 We have given *the* hand to *the* Egyptians,
And to the Assyrians, to be satisfied with bread.

⁴⁹ *Or, Yes, they fled away and wandered,*

⁵⁰ *Hb.* face

⁵¹ *Or, Thine iniquity hath an end,*

⁵² *Hb.* cometh for price.

- 7 Our fathers sinned, *and are* not;
And we have borne their iniquities.
- 8 Servants rule over us:
There is none to deliver *us* out of their hand.
- 9 We get our bread at *the peril of* our souls,
Because of *the* sword of the wilderness.
- 10 Our skin is ⁵³black like an oven,
Because of *the* burning heat of famine.
- 11 They ravished *the* women in Zion,
The virgins in *the* cities of Judah.
- 12 Princes were hanged up by their hand:
The faces of elders were not honored.
- 13 *The* young men bare *the* mill;
And *the* children stumbled under the wood.
- 14 *The* elders have ceased from *the* gate,
The young men from their music.
- 15 *The* joy of our heart is ceased;
Our dance is turned into mourning.
- 16 *The* crown is fallen *from* our head:
Woe unto us! for we have sinned.
- 17 For this our heart is faint;
For these *things* our eyes are dim;
- 18 For *the* mountain of Zion, which is desolate:
The ⁵⁴foxes walk upon it.
- 19 Thou, O Jehovah, ⁵⁵abidest for ever;
Thy throne is from generation to generation.
- 20 Wherefore dost thou forget us for ever,
And forsake us so long *a* time?
- 21 Turn thou us unto thee, O Jehovah, and we shall be
turned;
Renew our days as of old.
- 22 ⁵⁶But thou hast utterly rejected us;
Thou art very wroth against us.

End of the Book of the Lamentations of Jeremiah

[Each verse of the first four chapters begins with a successive letter of the 22-letter Hebrew alphabet; but in ch. 3 it is each group of three verses that begins with the same Hebrew letter (hence 3×22 = 66 verses), except that ayin (א) and pe (פ) are reversed in chapters 2, 3, 4. There is no easily-discernable trend in the 22 verses of ch. 5.]

⁵³ *Or* hot

⁵⁴ *Or*, jackals

⁵⁵ *Or*, sittest *as King* for ever;

⁵⁶ *Or*, Unless thou hast utterly rejected us;
And art very wroth against us.