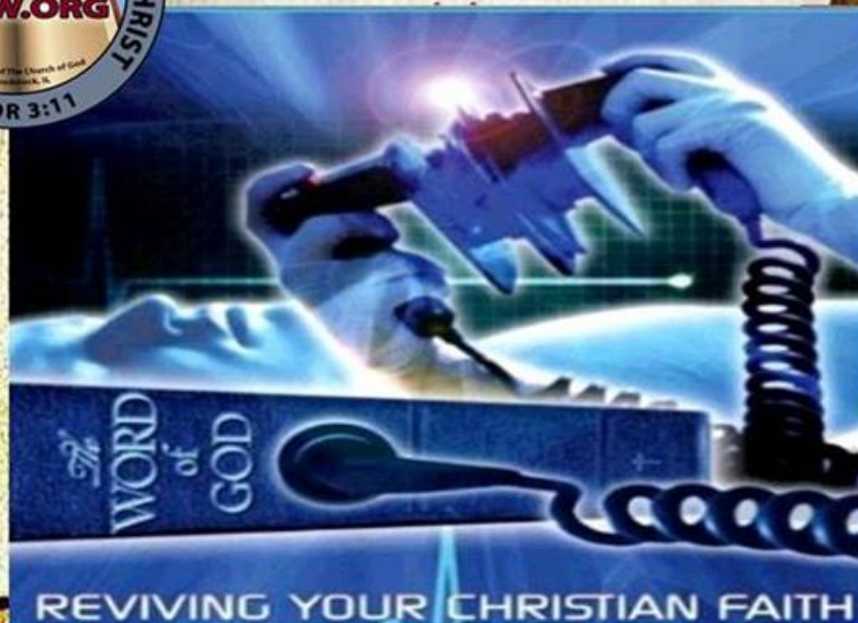
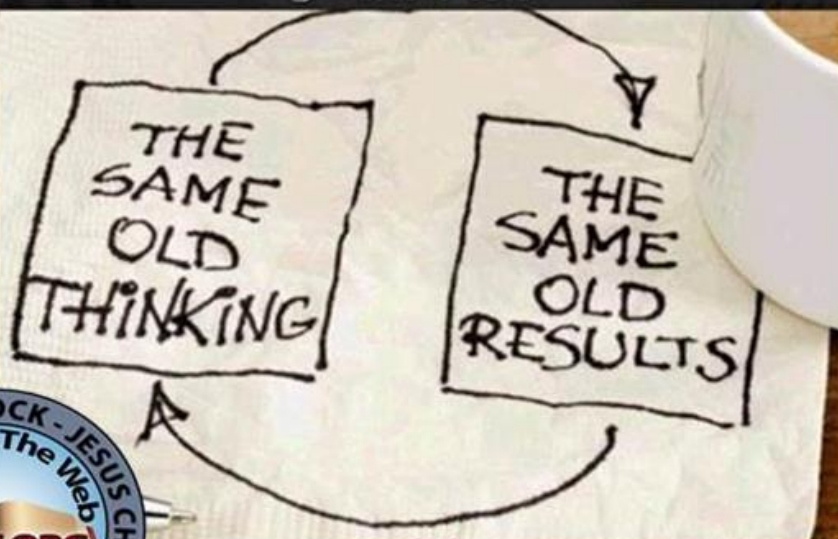


Think BIBLICALLY



RENEW
your mind
ROMANS 12:2



Understanding the Bible: **Lamentations**



Lamentations

ca 586 BC

Weeping Over Jerusalem

Lamentations

First Lament - 1:1-22

Second Lament - 2:1-22

Third Lament - 3:1-66

Fourth Lament - 4:1-22

Fifth Lament - 5:1-22

1:1 **א**יכה ישבה בְּדָד הָעִיר רַבְּתִי עִם הָיְתָה כְּאַלְמָנָה רַבְּתִי בַגּוֹיִם שָׂרְתִי בַמְּדִינוֹת
הָיְתָה לַמָּס: ס

1:2 **ב**כו תבכה בְּלִילָה וְדַמְעָתָה עַל לִחְיָהָ אֵין־לָהּ מְנַחֵם מִכָּל־אֱהָבֶיהָ כָּל־רַעֲיָהּ בָּגָדוּ
דוּ בָהּ הָיוּ לָהּ לְאִיבִים: ס

1:3 **ג**לְתָה יְהוּדָה מֵעַנִי וַיִּמְרֹב עֲבֹדָהּ הִיא יָשְׁבָה בַגּוֹיִם לֹא מָצְאָה מְנוּחַ כָּל־רֹדְפֶיהָ הָשִׁיגוּהָ בֵּין הַמָּצָרִים: ס

1:4 **ד**רְכֵי צִיּוֹן אֲבִלוֹת מִבְּלִי בָּאִי מוֹעֵד כָּל־שְׁעָרֶיהָ שׁוֹמְמִין כְּהִנִּיָּה נֶאֱנָחִים בְּתוֹלְתֶיהָ
הָ נִוּגוֹת וְהִיא מֵר־לָהּ: ס

- Narrator
- Zion (Jerusalem personified)
- The Remnant of Zion

KEY VERSES:

Lamentations 2:17 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 3:21-23 This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. *It is of* the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. *They are* new every morning: great *is* Thy faithfulness.

2 Kings 25:8-12 And in the fifth month, on the seventh *day* of the month, which *is* the nineteenth year of king Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, came Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, unto Jerusalem: And he burnt the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem, and every great *man's* house burnt he with fire. And all the army of the Chaldees, that *were with* the captain of the guard, brake down the walls of Jerusalem round about. Now the rest of the people *that were* left in the city, and the fugitives that fell away to the king of Babylon, with the remnant of the multitude, did Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carry away. But the captain of the guard left of the poor of the land *to be* vinedressers and husbandmen.

Lamentations

1:1-22 Lament Over Jerusalem's Desolation

2:1-22 God Set Jerusalem Under A Cloud

3:1-66 I Am A Man That Has Seen Affliction

4:1-22 How Is The Gold Become Dim!

5:1-22 Lord, Hear Our Plea

Lamentations 1:1-11 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! 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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*. 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. 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.

“Where is our God?”

“Where is our God?”

Seek to understand what God is doing

Lamentations 1:12-22 *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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. **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. 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. 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.** 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. 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.

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Lamentations 2:1-9 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! 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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.

Sometimes God removes the signs of His grace, so that our faith and longing may be rooted in Him, not in the symbols of His presence.

- Compact Survey of the Bible

Lamentations 2:13-17 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? **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.** 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? 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*. **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.**

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Lamentations 3:13-32 He hath caused the arrows of His quiver to enter into my reins. I was a derision to all my people; *and* their song all the day. He hath filled me with bitterness, He hath made me drunken with wormwood. He hath also broken my teeth with gravel stones, He hath covered me with ashes. And Thou hast removed my soul far off from peace: I forgot prosperity. And I said, My strength and my hope is perished from the LORD: **Remembering mine affliction and my misery, the wormwood and the gall. My soul hath *them* still in remembrance, and is humbled in me. This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in Him. The LORD is good unto them that wait for Him, to the soul *that* seeketh Him. It is good that *a man* should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD. It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth. He sitteth alone and keepeth silence, because he hath borne *it* upon him. He putteth his mouth in the dust; if so be there may be hope. He giveth *his* cheek to him that smiteth him: he is filled full with reproach. For the Lord will not cast off for ever: But though He cause grief, yet will He have compassion according to the multitude of His mercies.***

Lamentations 3:39-41 Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins? Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD. Let us lift up our heart with *our* hands unto God in the heavens.

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Lamentations 4:1-2 How is the gold become dim! *how* is the most fine gold changed! the stones of the sanctuary are poured out in the top of every street. The precious sons of Zion, comparable to fine gold, how are they esteemed as earthen pitchers, the work of the hands of the potter!

Lamentations 4:5-6 They that did feed delicately are desolate in the streets: they that were brought up in scarlet embrace dunghills. 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 as in a moment, and no hands stayed on her.

Lamentations 4:10-13 The hands of the pitiful women have sodden their own children: they were their meat in the destruction of the daughter of my people. The LORD hath accomplished His fury; He hath poured out His fierce anger, and hath kindled a fire in Zion, and it hath devoured the foundations thereof. The kings of the earth, and all the inhabitants of the world, would not have believed that the adversary and the enemy should have entered into the gates of Jerusalem. For the sins of her prophets, *and* the iniquities of her priests, that have shed the blood of the just in the midst of her

Lamentations 4:21-22 Rejoice and be glad, O daughter of Edom, that dwellest in the land of Uz; the cup also shall pass through unto thee: thou shalt be drunken, and shalt make thyself naked. 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 discover thy sins.

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Lamentations 5:1-9 Remember, O LORD, what is come upon us: consider, and behold our reproach. Our inheritance is turned to strangers, our houses to aliens. We are orphans and fatherless, our mothers *are* as widows. We have drunken our water for money; our wood is sold unto us. Our necks *are* under persecution: we labour, *and* have no rest. We have given the hand *to* the Egyptians, *and to* the Assyrians, to be satisfied with bread. Our fathers have sinned, *and are* not; and we have borne their iniquities. Servants have ruled over us: *there is* none that doth deliver *us* out of their hand. We gat our bread with *the peril of* our lives because of the sword of the wilderness.

Lamentations 5:15-22 The joy of our heart is ceased; our dance is turned into mourning. The crown is fallen *from* our head: woe unto us, that we have sinned! For this our heart is faint; for these *things* our eyes are dim. Because of the mountain of Zion, which is desolate, the foxes walk upon it. Thou, O LORD, remainest for ever; Thy throne from generation to generation. Wherefore dost Thou forget us for ever, *and* forsake us so long time? Turn Thou us unto Thee, O LORD, and we shall be turned; renew our days as of old. But Thou hast utterly rejected us; Thou art very wroth against us.

Lamentations

Sowing Sins, Reaping Repercussions

- Dearth and death
- Destruction and desolation of Jerusalem and the Temple
 - Loss of king and princes
 - Captivity
 - Scorn from the enemy
 - Alienation from God

Lamentations

- Bewildered complaint
 - Depression
- Recognition of God as a just judge
 - Confession of sin
 - Renewal of prayer to God
 - Patience bearing of discipline

Tragedy can lead to dark despair

Tragedy can lead to dark despair

OR

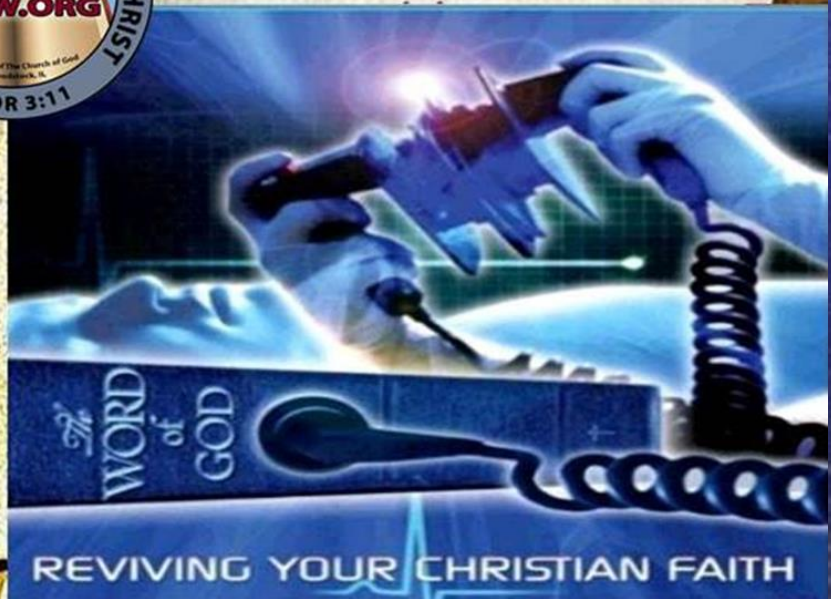
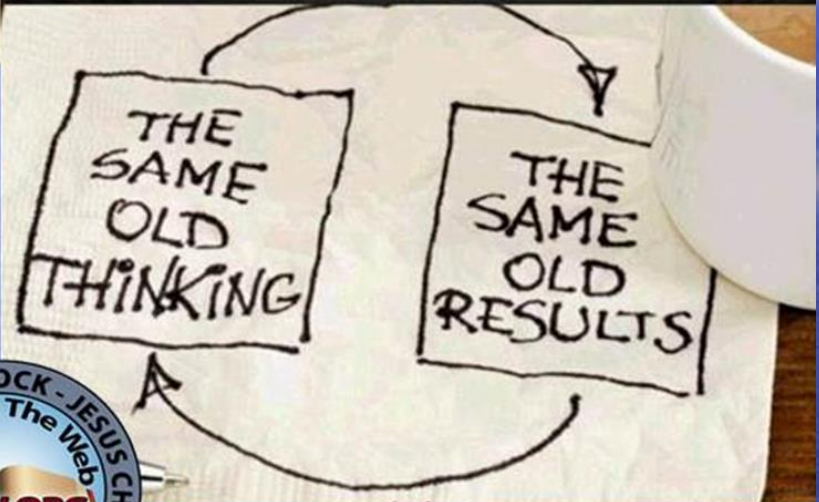
to a deepened trust in God

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