



II. THE LAMENTATION GIVEN (Lamentations 1:12-22)

A. The Appeal to Others (Lamentations 1:12)

1. Determining the speaker

a. The options

- (1) Either the prophet of himself
- (2) Or the prophet speaking of the nation

b. The indications

- (1) See if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow.
- (2) The LORD hath afflicted me.
- (3) He hath made me desolate and faint (Lamentations 1:13).
- (4) The Lord hath delivered me into their hands, from whom I am not able to rise up (Lamentations 1:14).
- (5) The Lord hath trodden under foot all my mighty men (Lamentations 1:15).
- (6) My children are desolate (Lamentations 1:16).

c. The conclusions

- (1) Even though the pronouns suggest a single person speaking
- (2) The context seems to point to the fact that a man is speaking on behalf of the nation. This does not mean that the nation has asked him to speak, but that he feels compelled to speak as a mediator who takes on himself the conditions of the nation as a whole.

2. Enquiring of the onlookers

a. Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?

- (1) Where were the nations with which the nation of Israel had committed spiritual fornication?
- (2) This was the promise of God in response to the disobedience of His people (Deuteronomy 28:15-68, esp. v. 37).
- (3) This was the promise given by God through Jeremiah (Jeremiah 18:15-16; Jeremiah 19:1-9; Jeremiah 22:1-9).
- (4) Now it was come to pass (Lamentations 2:15).

b. Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow.

- (1) Which is done unto me.
- (2) Wherewith the LORD hath afflicted me in the day of His anger.

c. The picture presented

- (1) The nation failed to heed God's word and suffered for their disobedience.
- (2) The consequences included the mockery of those that passed by and wondered about the suffering of a city known as the place where God would put His name.
- (3) Fast forward, and that nation put One in focus when they hung Him upon a cross. However, He suffered not for His own doing, but for the rebellion of others.
- (4) As they passed by, they missed this substitutionary atonement and wagged their heads and ridiculed (Matthew 27:39-44).

**B. The Circumstances Explained (Lamentations 1:13-15)**

1. The loss of strength (Lamentations 1:13)
 - a. The source of the trouble
 - (1) From above
 - (2) Hath **He** sent
 - b. The nature of the trouble
 - (1) A fire sent into my bones
 - (2) It, the fire, prevaieth against them, the bones.
2. The loss of freedom (Lamentations 1:13-14)
 - a. The source of the trouble
 - (1) He hath spread a net (Lamentations 1:13).
 - (2) The yoke of my transgressions (Lamentations 1:14)
 - b. The nature of the trouble
 - (1) He hath spread a net for my feet (Lamentations 1:13).
 - (2) He hath turned me back (Lamentations 1:13).
 - (3) He hath made me desolate and faint (Lamentations 1:13).
 - (4) The yoke of my transgressions is bound by His hands (Lamentations 1:14).
 - a) They are wreathed or twisted (see Ecclesiastes 4:12).
 - b) They come up upon my neck.
 - (5) He hath made my strength to fall.
 - (6) The Lord hath delivered me into their hands, from whom I am not able to rise up.
3. The loss of hope (Lamentations 1:15)
 - a. The mighty men
 - (1) The Lord hath trodden under foot all my mighty men.
 - (2) In the midst of me
 - b. The young men
 - (1) He hath called an assembly against me.
 - (2) To crush my young men
 - c. The virgin
 - (1) The Lord hath trodden the virgin, the daughter of Judah.
 - (2) As in a winepress

C. The Misery Expressed (Lamentations 1:16-17)

1. The excessive weeping (Lamentations 1:16)
 - a. The nature of weeping
 - b. The cause of weeping
 - (1) The comforter that should relieve my soul is far from me.
 - (2) My children are desolate, because the enemy prevailed.
2. The plea for help (Lamentations 1:17)
 - a. Zion spreadeth forth her hands, and there is none to comfort her.
 - b. The LORD hath commanded concerning Jacob, that his adversaries should be round about him.
 - c. Jerusalem is as a menstruous woman among them.

**D. The Repentance Manifested (Lamentations 1:18-22)**

1. The cause stated (Lamentations 1:18a)
 - a. I have rebelled against His commandment.
 - b. The LORD is righteous.
 - c. Note: This is one of the first indications of repentance. Each condition expressed thus far demonstrates God's righteousness. The prophet, speaking on behalf of the nation, testified that God was right.
 - (1) The solitary city (Lamentations 1:1)
 - (2) The tributary city (Lamentations 1:1)
 - (3) The loneliness of the city (Lamentations 1:2)
 - (4) The captivity of Judah (Lamentations 1:3)
 - (5) The mourning of Zion (Lamentations 1:4-6)
 - (6) The mockery and despising of others (Lamentations 1:7-9)
 - (7) The loss of the pleasant things (Lamentations 1:10-11)
 - (8) The affliction sent (Lamentations 1:12-14)
 - (9) The sacrifice of the future (Lamentations 1:15)
 - (10) The lack of comfort (Lamentations 1:16-17)
2. The condition stated (Lamentations 1:18b-21a)
 - a. The plea for understanding (Lamentations 1:18b)
 - (1) Hear.
 - (2) And behold.
 - b. The circumstances expressed (Lamentations 1:18b-21a)
 - (1) Captivity (Lamentations 1:18b)
 - (2) Betrayal (Lamentations 1:19a)
 - a) I called for my lovers.
 - b) They deceived me.
 - (3) Death (Lamentations 1:19b)
 - a) My priests and mine elders gave up the ghost in the city.
 - b) While they sought their meat to relieve their souls.
 - (4) Distress (Lamentations 1:20)
 - a) The expression
 - i) My bowels are troubled.
 - ii) Mine heart is turned within me.
 - b) The cause—"I have grievously rebelled."
 - c) The effects
 - i) Abroad the sword bereaveth.
 - ii) At home there is as death.
 - (5) Loneliness (Lamentations 1:21a)
 - a) They have heard that I sigh.
 - b) There is none to comfort me.
 - c) Mine enemies have heard of my trouble and are glad.
3. The help requested (Lamentations 1:21b-22)
 - a. Thou wilt bring the day and they shall be like unto me (Lamentations 1:21b).
 - b. Let their wickedness come before thee (Lamentations 1:22).
 - c. Do unto them as thou hast done unto me (Lamentations 1:22).