



II. THE CAUSE AND CONSEQUENCES OF GOD'S JUDGMENT (Lamentations 4:13-22)

A. The Behaviour of the Spiritual Leaders (Lamentations 4:13-16)

1. The spiritual leaders identified (Lamentations 4:13)
 - a. The prophets
 - b. The priests
2. The behaviour identified (Lamentations 4:13-15)
 - a. They shed innocent blood (Lamentations 4:13; see Jeremiah 26:7-15).
 - (1) The blood was that of the just.
 - (2) It was the blood of those "in the midst of her."
 - b. They wandered in blindness (Lamentations 4:14).
 - (1) Their wandering is compared to the manner in which blind men might stumble through the streets.
 - (2) The emphasis tends to bring to mind ignorance, lack of spiritual insight, and the absence of direction.
 - a) This was promised to a disobedient nation (Deuteronomy 28:15, 29).
 - b) Isaiah spoke of both blind leaders (Isaiah 56:10) and blind followers (Isaiah 59:10).
 - (3) As the New Testament emphasizes, blind leaders produce endangered followers (Matthew 15:14).
 - (4) In the end, the picture is probably that of the prophets and priests wandering aimlessly and dangerously toward a destination, but they would find their destination was not that which they would have expected it to be. They likely thought they were doing God a favour. However, they were fighting against God and the truth.
 - c. They turned away the people (Lamentations 4:14-15).
 - (1) They had polluted themselves with blood (Lamentations 4:14).
 - a) Interestingly, it was not uncommon for the priests to be defiled by the blood of sacrifices. In fact, this is why the Lord Jesus initially told the ladies not to touch Him.
 - b) The problem is that this was not a defilement of blood offered in sacrifices to God.
 - c) This was a pollution of blood caused by the slaying of just men.
 - d) Due to this blood, men could not touch their garments.
 - (2) They sent the people away (Lamentations 4:15).
 - a) Saying, Depart ye; it is unclean.
 - b) Depart, depart, touch not.
 - (3) The people found no place (Lamentations 4:15).
 - a) They fled away and wandered.
 - b) The heathen said of the people, "They shall no more sojourn there."



3. The Lord's response identified (Lamentations 4:16)
 - a. The source of His response—"The anger of the LORD"
 - b. The nature of His response
 - (1) He hath divided them.
 - (2) He will no more regard them.
 - c. The cause of His response
 - (1) The people respected not the persons of the priests.
 - (2) The people favoured not the elders.

- B. The Conditions of the Judged (Lamentations 4:17-20)
 1. They sought for vain help (Lamentations 4:17).
 - a. Their eyes failed for their vain help.
 - b. In their watching, they watched for a nation that could not save them. Note: This most likely refers to the Egyptians.
 2. Their end was come (Lamentations 4:18).
 - a. The enemies hunted their steps so that they could not go into their own streets.
 - b. Their end was come.
 3. Their persecutors were superior (Lamentations 4:19).
 - a. Their swiftness—"Our persecutors are swifter than the eagles."
 - b. Their pursuit—"they pursued us upon the mountains."
 - c. Their savagery—"they laid wait for us in the wilderness."
 4. Their head was removed (Lamentations 4:20).
 - a. His identity
 - (1) The breath of our nostrils
 - (2) The anointed of the LORD; Note: Obviously their king
 - b. His capture—"taken in their pits"
 - c. His hope—of whom we said, Under his shadow we shall live."

- C. The Turning of Judgment (Lamentations 4:21-22)
 1. The promise to Edom (Lamentations 4:21-22)
 - a. The awkward opening—"Rejoice and be glad" (Lamentations 4:21).
 - b. The people addressed (Lamentations 4:21)
 - (1) O daughter of Edom
 - (2) That dwellest in the land of Uz
 - c. The nature of the promise (Lamentations 4:21-22)
 - (1) The cup also shall pass through unto thee (Lamentations 4:21).
 - (2) Thou shalt be drunken (Lamentations 4:21).
 - (3) Thou shalt make thyself naked (Lamentations 4:21).
 - (4) He will visit thine iniquity (Lamentations 4:22).
 - (5) He will discover thy sins (Lamentations 4:22).
 2. The hope for Israel (Lamentations 4:22)
 - a. The punishment of their iniquity was accomplished.
 - b. God would no more carry them away into captivity.