



## The Lamentations of Jeremiah

### *Lamenting the Comforter*

#### *Lamentations 5:1-22*

- I. THE CONDITIONS OF THE LAMENTERS (Lamentations 5:1-16)
  - A. The Desire of the Lamenters (Lamentations 5:1)
    1. The person to whom the appeal was made—"O LORD"
    2. The appeal
      - a. Remember what is come upon us.
      - b. Consider and behold our reproach.
    3. The concern—When the nation was under these circumstances, it was deemed that the Lord needed to be addressed and beseeched for help.
  - B. The Invasion from Without (Lamentations 5:2)
    1. Our inheritance is turned to strangers.
    2. Our houses are turned to aliens.
  - C. The Absence of Men (Lamentations 5:3)
    1. We are orphans and fatherless.
    2. Our mothers are as widows.
  - D. The Servitude of the People (Lamentations 5:4-8)
    1. The servitude in necessities (Lamentations 5:4, 6)
      - a. We have drunken our water for money (Lamentations 5:4).
      - b. Our wood is sold unto us (Lamentations 5:4).
      - c. We have given the hand to the Egyptians and Assyrians (Lamentations 5:6).
      - d. We did this to be satisfied with bread (Lamentations 5:6).
    2. The servitude in labour (Lamentations 5:5)
      - a. Our necks are under persecution.
      - b. We labour, and have no rest.
    3. The servitude in consequences (Lamentations 5:7)
      - a. Our fathers have sinned, and are not.
      - b. We have borne their iniquities.
    4. The servitude in ruling (Lamentations 5:8)
      - a. Servants have ruled over us.
        - (1) Servant nations
        - (2) Women and children (Isaiah 3:4, 12)
      - b. There is none to deliver us out of their hand.



- c. Note: Consider the transition.
- (1) In Isaiah's ministry (likely dated around 3,467—this was the year that Uzziah died), there was a problem with pride and unscriptural authority among the women and children (Isaiah 3:4, 12, 16).
  - (2) By the time Jeremiah comes along (his ministry began around 3,595), the nation was in danger of being governed by pagan nations that were intended by the Lord to be inferior to Israel, certainly not to rule over Israel.
  - (3) When Israel entered the land of promise, they made the nations around them servants thinking they were strong enough to use the nations to do the tasks that they deemed to be beneath them (Judges 1:28).
  - (4) God warned Israel that the nations would become stumbling blocks to them (Numbers 33:55; Joshua 23:13; Judges 2:3) and they did.
  - (5) As Israel lived alongside the nations, they picked up their idolatry, paganism, and ungodly cultures. One small part of this cultural decline among Israel likely involved the rise in authority and pride among the women and children (see Isaiah 3:4, 12, 16).
  - (6) Less than 150 years after Isaiah warned of the conditions of his time, the southern kingdom of Judah was in captivity to the Babylonians.
  - (7) The improper leadership was evident internally in Isaiah's day but became a greater problem when servant nations from without became Israel's authority. There was no deliverance available.
  - (8) It would not turn out good for the women and children. This is a bit of a conundrum because in seeking to elevate their position in society, they actually sealed their own doom.

E. The Desperate Need for Food (Lamentations 5:9-10)

1. The danger of seeking food (Lamentations 5:9)
  - a. We gat our bread with the peril of our lives.
  - b. Because of the sword of the wilderness
  - c. Note: The indication is that going to find food could cause one to lose his life. Bread is a basic necessity and therefore this is extremely shameful.
2. The lack of food locally (Lamentations 5:10)
  - a. Our skin was black like an oven.
    - (1) With extreme hunger, the skin becomes dry and inelastic.
    - (2) Dark pigmentation can start to appear on the face and trunk, probably caused by a glandular disturbance.
  - b. Because of the terrible famine

**F. The Ill Treatment of the People (Lamentations 5:11-13)**

1. The women and girls (Lamentations 5:11)
  - a. They ravished the women in Zion.
  - b. They ravished the maids in the cities of Judah.
  - c. Note: The word *ravished* can mean seized by violence, but it can also convey the idea of relations by force. The women would have no doubt traded the practices of the enemy forces for the “bondage” experienced in submitting oneself to the laws of God and the culture implemented based on those laws.
2. The princes and elders (Lamentations 5:12)
  - a. The princes are hanged up by their hand.
  - b. The faces of the elders were not honoured.
3. The young men and children (Lamentations 5:13)
  - a. They took the young men to grind. Note: This likely speaks of grinding in the mills.
  - b. The children fell under the wood. Note: This likely speaks of bearing the burdens (carrying wood) and struggling under the burden.

**G. The Loss Suffered (Lamentations 5:14-16)**

1. The elders have ceased from the gate (Lamentations 5:14).
  - a. A loss of wisdom
  - b. A loss of integrity
  - c. A loss of direction
2. The young men ceased from their musick (Lamentations 5:14).
  - a. A loss of expression
  - b. A loss of praise
  - c. A loss of creativity
  - d. A loss of thinking
3. The joy of our heart is ceased; our dance is turned into mourning (Lamentations 5:15).
  - a. A loss of happiness
  - b. A loss of peace
  - c. A loss of community
4. The crown is fallen from our head (Lamentations 5:16).
  - a. A loss of power
  - b. A loss of dignity
  - c. A loss of authority
  - d. A loss of beauty
  - e. A loss of superiority

**H. The Reality Set In (Lamentations 5:16)**

1. Woe unto us.
2. We have sinned.



- II. THE PLEA OF THE LAMENTERS (Lamentations 5:17-22)
- A. The Sadness of Our Condition (Lamentations 5:17-18)
1. Of the people (Lamentations 5:17)
    - a. Our heart is faint.
    - b. Our eyes are dim.
  2. Of the place (Lamentations 5:18)
    - a. The mountain of Zion is desolate.
    - b. The foxes walk upon it.
- B. The Stedfastness of God's Condition (Lamentations 5:19)
1. The statement
    - a. His person—He remainest for ever.
    - b. His work—His throne remainest from generation to generation.
  2. The contrast
    - a. Nations come and go.
    - b. Nations rise and fall.
    - c. Leaders rise up and get conquered.
    - d. Yet, God never changes!
- C. The Request for God's Renewal (Lamentations 5:20-22)
1. The present condition (Lamentations 5:20, 22)
    - a. They are forgotten (Lamentations 5:20).
      - (1) The reality is that they were not forgotten, but rather had forgotten the Lord (Jeremiah 2:32).
      - (2) However, they believed themselves to be forgotten.
    - b. They are forsaken (Lamentations 5:20).
      - (1) If the Lord had forsaken Israel, which He had not (Jeremiah 51:5), it would have been a response to their disobedience (Jeremiah 2:13).
      - (2) It was promised that God would not forsake a repentant nation (Deuteronomy 4:30-31).
    - c. They are rejected (Lamentations 5:22).
    - d. They are the recipients of God's anger (Lamentations 5:22).
  2. The plea (Lamentations 5:21)
    - a. Turn thou us unto Thee.
      - (1) The need for God to turn to the people again (Psalm 60:1)
      - (2) The need for God to turn the people again (Psalm 80:3, 7, 19; Psalm 85:4)
      - (3) The outcome of a turned people—"we shall be saved" (Psalm 80:3, 7, 19).
    - b. Renew our days as of old.
      - (1) The present—in need of renewal
      - (2) The past—the goal