

Lamentations 2

Theme of this chapter: a continuation of *Chapter 1* – when God punishes people, it is directly because of their disobedience to his word

Lamentations 2.1-10 – an eye-witness of what happened

V1 – The anger of God is revealed – **Read Heb. 10.31 Read Heb. 12.4-11**

-Even when God loves us, he disciplines us as a father does his children

-**What happens when a parent does not discipline his children?** The children ultimately think that the parent does not love them

-The result is worse and worse behavior, as the children try to get the attention of the parent

-The glory of Israel had fallen from heaven to earth

-**What was the footstool of God?** The mercy seat of the Ark of the Covenant

-**Read Psalm 132.7 and 1 Chron. 28.1** – it was captured and stolen

V2 – **The horn of Israel?** The power of Israel – the city walls had been torn down

V3 – **What had God withdrawn from Israel?** His right hand

-**What was his anger like?** A flaming fire consuming everything (as with our wildfires out West)

V4 – He killed everything that was pleasing to his eye (the city of Jerusalem)

Read Psalm 122 (an ascension *Psalm*)

Read Psalm 84.10 – the glory of God was the city of Jerusalem

V5 – Notice that God is pictured as the enemy – **Read Gal. 4.16**

V6 – **What was the worst thing about the defeat of Jerusalem?** The loss of the Ark of the Covenant and the temple

-The feasts and Sabbaths were no longer going to be celebrated in Jerusalem

V7 – **Message:** The outward appearance of being religious was not enough

V 8-9 – **What happened to the gates of the city?** They had sunk into the ground

-**What happened to the bars (the defenses of the city)?** Gone

-**What happened to the kings and princes?** Either killed or else taken into exile

-**What happened to the law and the prophets?** Gone

-Remember that Ezekiel was already in Babylon, and Jeremiah would soon leave for Egypt

V10 – **What did the elders of the city do?** They were sitting on the ground and throwing dust on their heads

Read Ezek. 34.1-10 – The elders of Israel had not been doing their job!

Read Ezek. 8.7-13 – The elders of Israel were secretly worshipping idols and the

gods of the heavens and animals!

Lamentations 2.11-16

V 11 – What was the reaction of Jeremiah to these words? He started crying (typical of Jeremiah, the weeping prophet)

-Why had the little children fainted? Because of a lack of food – the city was in shambles – Jeremiah was very tenderhearted

V 12 – How did the children die? Asking for food from their mothers

V 13 – Very touching! What had been Jeremiah's goal in writing this book? To bring comfort to the defeated people

-But what had happened? He could not cheer them up – the scene was too grim

V 14 – What is the direct source of their suffering? The false prophets, along with the false visions, weak preaching (they did not expose iniquity), and false oracles

-Does any of this sound modern?

V 15 – What did travelers think about the city? They were amazed at its ruin

-In other words, how could a city so beautiful be reduced to such a level of destruction?

V 16 – Where were some travelers and strangers who rejoiced over the fall of Jerusalem?

-Yes, they had been waiting for this day

-Think of the Arabs who ridiculed Nehemiah when he was trying to rebuild the city

-There are many enemies of God's people in all parts of the world

Lamentations 2.17-22

V 17 – Jeremiah: There is a morality that God holds nations to – God had continually warned Israel of its sins and idolatry – but they had ignored the warnings

-Great message here: The fall of Jerusalem was the result of the hand of God against the people (not just because they had enemies, but the Babylonians were instruments of God's wrath) (see the book of *Habakkuk*)

V 18-19 – This seems to be a prayer that Jeremiah was praying – the wall of Jerusalem seems to represent the hearts of the people

-In other words, the people needed to cry their hearts out to God and ask for his mercy

-They needed to beg God to help them, during the night watches all night long

V 20 – The people started begging God: You really want to see mothers eating their children, do you? You don't want to see the priests and prophets killed, do you?

V 21 – Dead bodies were laying everywhere

-What was particularly sad about the dead? The young people

V 22 – A summary of the chapter

-There is a glimmer of hope in v 22, because the people were asking for mercy

-That means that God was still a merciful God and that his heart could be moved

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