

# LAMENTATIONS 1 vs 1

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Since what Solomon says, though contrary to the common opinion, is certainly true, that sorrow is better than laughter, and it is better to go to the house of mourning than to the house of feasting; and, to do this, we must compose ourselves and resolve to weep with those who weep. Though Jeremiah's country had been very unkind to him, and though the ruin of it... had been both a proof that he was a true prophet, and a punishment of them for falsely prosecuting him; which might have tempted him to rejoice in it, yet he sadly lamented it – Matthew Henry.



This lament over JERUSALEM serves as warning to all capital cities: DC, LONDON, PARIS, BRUSSELS, ROME, BEIJING, TOKYO, RIYADH... and all the others. Ancient scholars agree, prophet Jeremiah wrote this lament; each chapter is divided into 22 verses following the Hebrew alphabet; the principal question repeatedly asked in this grand death dirge is:

**How long!** Moses already answered that: until destroyed are all the places where the nations served their gods, on the high mountains, on the hills, and under every green tree; until altars are torn down, pillars are dashed in pieces, and their name is destroyed out of that place – Deuteronomy 12; they had an assignment, so did these blessed people, chosen by God do it? Let us find out...

The Desolation of Jerusalem,

**<sup>1</sup> How the city sits alone, that was full of people! She who was great among the nations, a princess among the provinces, How did she become like a widow!** / well, even a child would say: either a spouse died; or somebody left.

**How did she become a slave!**

**<sup>2</sup> She weeps bitterly in the night, with tears on her cheeks: among all her lovers she has none to comfort her: all her friends betrayed her, they became her enemies.**

**<sup>3</sup> Judah** has gone into exile following affliction and great slavery: she lives among the nations, but finds **no** resting place; all her pursuers overtook her in the narrow passes.

**<sup>4</sup> The roads to Zion mourn, none come to the solemn feasts / no one celebrates the 7 Days that belong to the Lord** though Paul said, they are shadows of things to come – Colossians 2; the last days, 3 Days of the Ingathering, after the work is done, are still on the Lord's agenda:

**all her gates are deserted: her priests sigh, her virgins have been dragged away, and she herself suffers bitterly.**

**<sup>5</sup> Her enemies have become her masters, her enemies prosper; as the LORD afflicted her due to her many times stepping over the line. Her children are gone, as captives before the enemy.**

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**6 From the daughter of Zion / the City of David... all her majesty has vanished: her leaders are like stags that find no pasture, they stumble exhausted before their hunters.**

**7 Jerusalem remembers all her precious things that were hers in days of old / I bet she does; typical of whiny, pampered elites. When her people fell into the hand of the enemy, no one helped her. The enemy gloated over her mocking her ruin.**

**8 Jerusalem sinned grievously; and she became filthy: all who honored her, now despise her; for they have seen her exposed: yes, she groans, and turns away.**

**9 Her filthiness in her skirts / she bleeped with everybody; she never considered her future. Her downfall was awful: there was no one to comfort her. O LORD, Look on my affliction: for the enemy boasts.**

**10 The enemy has seized all her precious things. She has even seen the nations enter her sanctuary, those You banned from Your congregation / the enemy took every dust collecting thing she had... that they thought was important: violating even her most sacred place.**

**11 All her people groan while they search for bread. They trade their valuables for food to stay alive: see, O LORD, and reconsider; for I am despised / these verses sound like WW 1 & 2**

**12 Is it nothing to you, all who pass by?** / is all this insignificant to you? Why did the Lord include this lament in our Bible, just to fill up pages? Or is it true, [all Scripture is inspired by God; and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training to do right](#) -- 2Timothy 3. If the Lord allowed this ruin to happen to a very small group of His chosen people... who fell off the wagon, and seriously stumbled off the way; than what will He do to our generation which has done and sanctioned much worse?

**behold, and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow, which is done to me, which the LORD inflicted on the Day of his fierce anger / Jerusalem wants to blame it on the Lord, but [through Moses, He gave them fair warning: if they would not serve the Lord with joy and gladness of heart,](#)** for all the abundance they were given, then the Lord would send their enemies until they were destroyed; when God speaks, He means what He says.

**13 From on high He sent fire into my bones and made it descend: He spread a net for my feet, He turned me back.**

**He made me desolate and faint all day long** / don't blame God; they did it to their self; the Lord said, Your will be done, so if we really haven't considered the outcomes, then watch out for what we ask.

**14 My transgressions / stepping over the line, were made into a yoke, fastened together by His hand; and set upon my neck: He made my strength to fail, the LORD has handed me over to those I cannot withstand.**

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<sup>15</sup> The LORD rejected all the mighty men within me. He summoned an army against me to crush my young warriors. The LORD trampled Virgin Daughter **Judah** like grapes in a winepress.

<sup>16</sup> I weep because of these things; my eyes flow with tears, for there is no one near to comfort me, no one to keep me alive. My children are desolate, because the enemy prevailed.

<sup>17</sup> Zion stretches out her hands, yet there is no one to comfort her. The LORD has decreed against **Jacob** / the scoundrel, that his neighbors should be his enemies: Jerusalem has become a filthy rag among them.

Notice, **how long** it took for the guilty confessor to speak truth...

<sup>18</sup> **The LORD is right; for I have rebelled against His order:** but listen all nations, I ask you to see my pain. My young women and young men have gone into captivity.

<sup>19</sup> I called to my lovers, but they betrayed me. My priests and elders vanished in the city, while searching for food to keep them alive.

<sup>20</sup> Look, O LORD; for I am in distress: my guts churn; my heart is broken within me for I have been **dangerously rebellious:** outside, the sword kills, inside there is death.

<sup>21</sup> The people heard my groaning: yet **no** one comes to give comfort. All my enemies heard of my trouble; they are glad **You did it** / correction, they did it to themselves; He just said: Amen.

**You brought the Day you announced** / when this Lamentation was written, it was just a preview of that terrible Day that is coming... a Day such as the world has never seen. And it is not that the LORD is doing something, He will just step back and allow the world to show each other, just who they really are: how angry they are... and how violent they can be,

**and let them be as I am** / they will be, but take care of your own dangerous rebellion.

<sup>22</sup> Let all their evildoing come before You; and deal with them as you have dealt with me for all my stepping over the line, for my sighs are many and my heart is faint;/ my endless, stepping over the line, changing the goal post; isn't it interesting how some whine about God being equitable:

/ they should be many; like no other people, He gave them fair warning, don't worry about telling God what He should do; instead, worry about doing what He told us to do.