

LAMENTATIONS 5 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. As we have sacred odes or songs of joy, so we have sacred elegies or songs of lament. 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.



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 Asherim are burned with fire*; until... *the graven images of their gods are cut down, and their name is destroyed out of that place* – **Deuteronomy 12**; until... *they rend their hearts and not their garments* – **Joel 2:13**; until... *they look on Him whom they pierced... and weep* – **Zechariah 12:10**. *God spoke in times past in bits and pieces through the prophets, but in the last days spoke to us in His Son* – **Hebrews 1**. And when His Son, our Messiah came the first time... He respectfully and kindly did not forget to tell us a single thing; He knows what He said, do we? Do we even care?

The Defeated People of Jerusalem,

¹ Remember, O LORD, what has happened to us: consider, and see our disgrace.

² Our inheritance is given to foreigners, our homes to strangers.

³ We are orphans and fatherless, our mothers are as widows.

⁴ We must pay for the water we drink; the wood is sold to us / basic necessities are scarce.

⁵ Our persecutors are at our necks: we labor, and have **no rest.**

⁶ We give the hand to Egypt, and to Assyria, to be satisfied with bread / like beggars on the street corner, they even extend the hand to their foes... for a little bread.

⁷ Our fathers sinned, and are **not; and we carry their iniquities /** though the faithless fathers are dead, their injustices and their inequities continue... you know, my OT seems to spell things out so clearly: the Lord God said, *He shows mercies to the thousandth generation who loves Him, but will repay to their face, those who hate Him* – did these uniquely blessed people of God think He was joking?

⁸ Slaves lord it over us: there is none to rescue us from their hand / well what happened to all those fabulous gods and goddesses; all their favorite idols whom they worshiped? Since they would not be ruled by God or the prophets He sent; then the curse of Canaan became the doom of Judah.

⁹ We get our corn at the risk of our lives because of the sword of the wilderness.

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10 Our skin was black like an oven because of the terrible famine.

11 Women are raped in Zion, and girls in the towns of Judah.

12 Princes are hanged up by their hand / is this a bad thing, or a good thing? All this still occurs in many countries today; even in western countries. Every Nazi, every inquisitor... every vial dictator who ever lived should be hung up by their thumbs. Were these princes more like king David, or like king Ahad?

the faces of elders are not honored / again, is this a bad thing, or a good thing? In the United States Supreme Court, it was the eminent godless fools, 3 Jewish and 6 Roman Catholic justices... who expanded abortion rights... while they suppressed historic protestant church rights to exploitive levels in this country.

13 They took young men to grind, and children fell under the wood / inhuman task-masters, more godless fools... abusing at every level of society, much like we see and hear going on mostly in other countries... for cheap labor, used to increase profit margins of tennis shoes, beauty products, tires for cars and 10,000 other commodities... while abusing and squeezing out what little life exists in the most vulnerable of the population; while the protestant church sleeps.

14 The elders ceased from sitting at the gate;

young men from their music / prophet Amos said, *take away the noise of your songs* – Amos 5. You know, if men could, they would like to BS all day long, while their women work. And of course, there is a time to sing; but there is also a time to stop the music... so, is this a bad thing, or a good thing?

15 The joy of our heart ceased; our dance is turned to mourning.

16 The crown is fallen from our head: woe to us, we have sinned! / both Israel and Judah had become a bunch of faithless chosen jackasses, no longer fit to wear the royal regalia of king David, and this was written 2700 years ago; so, it makes you wonder, if they were unfit then, what about them today? What about Ephraim, Manasseh and Judah in Jerusalem; are they any better today? Anybody wanna take bets?

17 For this our heart is faint; for these things our eyes are dim.

18 Because of Mount Zion which is desolate / but is the City of David; Jerusalem really desolate? Currently it is still built up with religious confusion of every kind... is this more evidence of future prophecy?

the foxes walk on it / remember God uses earthy metaphors to describe eternal truths; the Herodian foxes have trampled on Mount Zion for millennia; waiting for the time they can control it; claiming for centuries that the House of Judah had forfeited all the promises God gave them. The Herodian foxes have fomented hateful division throughout the world; hoping the Protestant Church and the Messianic Jews don't come together around their common heritage – but thankfully, the foxes are losing that battle.

19 You, O LORD, reign forever; Your throne is from generation to generation.

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²⁰ **Why then do You forget us forever, and abandon us so long time?** / you know how people always blame God. Who abandoned whom? For my entire life, until recently I only heard one Jewish woman ever read a quote from the prophets of the OT scriptures in such a way that obviously brought her great joy. I thought His people were chosen to make the great Name of the Lord known *from the rising to the setting of the sun* – **Malachi 1**.

And I've always wondered, since they are very industrious people, when are they going to do that?

I hear some of those chosen people, especially during the terrible holocaust lost their faith; often asking: where was God in that whole mess? Isaiah says, He was where He always is... sitting unperturbed in His heavens, respectful of the freedom He gave to all; even to those who want to misuse this freedom.

Haven't you always been curious about the Jewish insiders for centuries, wealthy beyond belief, merchants manipulating markets, bankers on both sides of wars, even world wars, who associate with papal Rome who funded the Nazi's rise to power? Or how about the Israelis who were ordered by their government to destroy the vessel carrying Jewish soldiers and their supply of weapons on their way to liberate Jerusalem?

²¹ ~~Turn thou us unto thee~~ / I always pause when I read people telling God what to do. I need to find out what this really says,

Yep, most translators seem to agree... tell God what He is supposed to do:

You return us to You... a few said: **Restore us to You...** / I'm more prone to think that our great God, who on occasion has enough of mankind's sloppy, vacillating faithlessness... says: **Kick your own ass**.

So you decide...

We will kick our own ass... O LORD, and we will return

Or

Restore us to You, O LORD, and we will be returned / really, for how long?

renew our days as of old / little do they know, He's moving on; He is doing something new.

²² **Or have You utterly rejected us; and You remain very angry against us.**

But did you hear in this chapter any recollection of His kind promises to those who would take Him at His word? Did you hear any mention of their offensive rebellious nature? Did you hear any offering giving thanks to God for anything?

When people stop singing their praise of our great God...then they are good as dead: So let's at least finish this chapter filled with indecent moral slips... by remembering to thank Him: [I Will Give You Thanks](#)