



Arabic Simplified Text

v4.9

Lamentations

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Arabic Simplified Text

2025-05-21 :Date

v4.9 :Version

[object Object] :Published by

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Lamentations

Jerusalem was once full of people¹ 1

.but now it is completely deserted

,Once it was a powerful nation

.but now it is alone, like a widow

,Once everyone in the world honored it like a king's daughter

.but now it is like a slave

,We in the city weep bitterly all during the nights²

.with tears flowing down our cheeks

We did not trust Yahweh to help us, and the people groups that we did trust failed to
;help us

.none of those people comfort us now

;All the people groups that were friends with us have betrayed us

.they are all now our enemies

The people of Judah have become poor³

.and have suffered greatly

Almost all of our people

.were forced to leave our land

We now live in another country

.and we have no peace

,When the people of Judah were unable to defend ourselves

.that was when our enemies captured us

The roads to Mount Zion are empty⁴

.because no one comes here to celebrate the sacred festivals any longer

,No elders or leaders sit under the city gates to talk any more

.and Jerusalem's priests groan in sorrow

The young women left in Jerusalem cry

.because they are suffering greatly

,Our enemies are now masters of our city⁵

.and they prosper

,Yahweh has punished us, the people of Jerusalem

.because of all the sins that we have committed
 Our enemies have taken all our children
 .and made them go to other countries
 ,Jerusalem was a beautiful city⁶
 .but it is not beautiful now
 The leaders of our city are like deer that are starving
 .because they can find no grass to eat
 They are very weak
 .and cannot run from our enemies
 ;We, the people of Jerusalem, are sad and have no more homes to live in⁷
 .we think about all the splendid things that once filled our city
 ,But now our enemies have captured the city
 .and there is no one to help us
 Our enemies destroyed our city
 .and laughed while they were doing it
 ;We, the people of Jerusalem, have sinned very much⁸
 .our city has become like a bloody rag between a woman's legs
 ;Everyone who previously honored our city now despise it
 .they are like people who strip a woman bare and then mock her
 ;Now we groan in the city
 .we are like a woman without clothes who tries to cover herself with her hands
 ;It is as if our city has become filthy because we have sinned so greatly⁹
 .we did not think about how God would punish us
 ;We did not imagine how we would suffer
 .there is no one to comfort us
 We all call out to God, "Yahweh, look at how we are suffering
 "!"because our enemies have defeated us
 ,Our enemies have taken away all our treasures¹⁰
 .all the valuable things that we owned
 ,People who do not worship you, Yahweh, are going into our sacred temple
 where you had said no foreigner must go into the place where your people worship
 .you
 All the people in the city cry out with pain¹¹
 .while they search for food
 They have given their most valuable things

.to get food to eat to restore their strength
 ,Yahweh, look at me
 .no one values my life
 ,You people who pass by¹²
 .you do not seem to care at all about what has happened to me
 .Look around and see that there are no other people who are suffering as I do
 Yahweh has caused me to suffer
 .because he has punished me on the day he was angry with us, his people
 It is as though he sent a fire from heaven¹³
 ;that burned in my bones
 ,it is as though he has placed a trap to entangle my feet
 .and made me turn back
 ;He has abandoned me
 .I am weak and alone every day, all during the day
 ;He turned the sins that I have committed into a heavy load for me to carry¹⁴
 .it is as though he tied them around my neck
 ,Previously we were strong
 .but he has caused me to become weak
 ,He has allowed my enemies to capture me
 .and I was not able to do anything to resist them
 .The Lord looked at my mighty soldiers, who kept me safe¹⁵
 He summoned a great army
 .to come and crush me to defeat my strong young soldiers
 The Lord has trampled on the people of Judah
 .as people trample on grapes in a pit to make juice
 .I weep because of all these things¹⁶
 .My eyes are filled with tears
 .There is no one to comfort me
 .The one who comforts me is far away from me
 My children have no hope
 .because the enemy has taken us all captive
 The people who lived in Zion (the city of Jerusalem)¹⁷
 .have no one to give them comfort
 Yahweh has given the order that the people in nearby nations

will become the enemies of the descendants of our father Jacob (who are also called
.(the Israelites

.Jerusalem has become disgusting to them

,But what Yahweh has done to me is fair¹⁸

.for I had refused to obey what he told me to do

!You people everywhere, listen to me

.Look and see that I am suffering greatly

My young daughters and brave sons

.have been taken away to far off lands

,I pleaded with our allies, in whom we trusted, to help¹⁹

,but they all refused

.they told lies and did not keep their promises

My priests and my leaders

died within the walls of the city

.while they searched for food to eat

!Yahweh, see that I am suffering very much²⁰

.Inside of my body I am in great distress

,I am sad in the center of my being

because I have rebelled against you

!and have caused you great sadness

;Our enemies kill people in the streets with their swords

.and that makes our homes the places where the dead are kept

!Hear my groaning²¹

.but no one came to comfort me

;All our enemies know what happened to me

they were all happy to hear

.about what Yahweh has done to his people

,Please do soon what you have promised

!when our enemies will suffer like we have suffered

Yahweh, let those evil deeds come near to you²²

!so you may see them all

Punish them as you have punished me

!for all my sins

,I suffer and groan very much

.and I faint within my inner self

;The Lord was extremely angry with us¹ 2

.it was as though he covered Jerusalem with a dark cloud

,Previously it was a beautiful city

.but he has caused it to become a ruin

,At the time he punished Israel

.he even abandoned his temple in Jerusalem

;The Lord destroyed the homes of the people of Judah²

.he did not act mercifully

,Because he was very angry

.he broke down the fortresses of Judah

He has made our kingdom to be completely helpless, and

.he has caused our rulers to lose all honor

,Because he was extremely angry³

.he has caused Israel to not be powerful anymore

He has refused to assist us

.when our enemies attacked us

He has destroyed Israel

.like a raging fire destroys everything

,He has gotten ready to kill us, his people⁴

.as though we were his enemies

,He prepared to kill the people whom we love the most

.members of our own families

;He is extremely angry with us people of Jerusalem

.his anger is like a fire

The Lord has become like an enemy⁵

;to us Israelites; he has destroyed us

he has destroyed our palaces

.and made our fortresses into ruins

,He has gotten rid of many people in Jerusalem

.and caused us to mourn and weep for those who were killed

He has caused our enemies to smash his temple⁶

.as easily as if it had been a hut in a garden

He has caused us, his people, to forget

.all our sacred festivals and Sabbath days

He has hated our kings and priests
 .because he was extremely angry with them
 ;Yahweh has rejected the very altar on which we had sacrificed animals to him⁷
 .he has abandoned his temple
 He has allowed our enemies to tear down the walls
 .of our temple and our palaces
 ,They shout victoriously in the temple of Yahweh
 .like we previously shouted during our sacred festivals
 Yahweh was determined⁸
 .that our enemies would tear down our city wall
 It was as though he had first measured the walls
 .and then completely destroyed them
 It was as though he caused the towers and walls to lament
 .because they were now ruins
 ;The city gates have collapsed⁹
 .the enemy has destroyed the bars that fastened the gates shut
 ,The king and his officials have been forced to go to other countries
 .where no one teaches the laws that God gave to Moses
 The prophets do not receive any visions
 .because Yahweh does not give them any
 ,The old men of Jerusalem sit on the ground¹⁰
 .and they say nothing
 They are so sad that they wear rough sackcloth
 .and throw dust on their heads
 ,The young girls of Jerusalem bow down sorrowfully
 .their faces touch the ground
 ;My eyes are very tired because of my tears¹¹
 .I am very grieved within my inner being
 ,Because very many of my people have died
 .in my inner being I grieve and am exhausted
 Even children and babies are fainting
 .and dying in the streets because they have no food
 ,They cry out to their mothers¹²
 ”!We need something to eat and drink“

They collapse like wounded men
 .in the streets of the city
 They slowly die
 .in the arms of their mothers
 ,You people of Jerusalem¹³
 .I cannot say anything to help you
 ;No people have suffered like you are suffering
 .I do not know what I can do to comfort you
 You have fallen just as far
 ;as if you had sunk in the ocean
 .there is no one who can bring your city back to what it was
 ,The prophets among you claimed that they had seen visions from Yahweh¹⁴
 .but what they said was false and worthless
 ;They did not work to save you from your enemies
 .they did not tell you that you had sinned
 ;Instead, they announced to you things that they said Yahweh had told them
 .they tempted you to believe them, and you did
 All those who pass by you¹⁵
 ;make fun of you by clapping their hands
 ;they shake their heads and hiss at you
 ?They say, "Is this the great city of Jerusalem
 ,Is it the city that people said was the most beautiful city in the world
 "the city that caused all the people on the earth to rejoice
 ;Now all our enemies laugh at you¹⁶
 .they hate you so much that they hiss at you and grind their teeth at you
 !They say, "We have destroyed Israel
 ,This is what we longed for
 "and now it has happened
 ;Yahweh has done what he planned¹⁷
 ,long ago he threatened to destroy you
 .and now he has done it
 ;He has destroyed your city without acting mercifully toward you
 ;he has enabled your enemies to be happy about defeating you
 .he has enabled your enemies to continually become stronger

I wish the city walls could speak like the people who¹⁸

!cry out to Yahweh

!I would tell the walls, “Cry out for help to Yahweh

!Let your tears flow day and night

.Let them flow like rivers

;Do not stop grieving

”.do not stop crying

;Get up during every night and cry out¹⁹

.tell Yahweh what you feel in your inner beings

Raise your arms to plead to him

;to act mercifully to prevent our children from dying

they are fainting on the street corners

.because they have no food to eat

.Yahweh, look at your people and have mercy on us²⁰

?Have you ever caused people to suffer like this before

,It is certainly not right that women are eating the flesh of their own children

.the children whom they have always taken care of

It is not right that our enemies are killing priests and prophets

!in your own temple

;The corpses of people of all ages lie in the streets²¹

there are even corpses of young men and young women whom our enemies have

.killed with their swords

,Because you were very angry

;you caused them to be killed

you have slaughtered them

.without pitying them at all

,You summoned my enemies to attack from every direction²²

.as though you were calling them to come to a feast

,At that time you showed that you were very angry

.and no one escaped

,Our enemies murdered our little children

.the ones whom we took care of and reared up

,I, the one who am writing this, am a man whom Yahweh made to suffer¹ 3

.because he was angry

It was as though he caused me to walk in a very dark place²
 .without any light at all
 ,He has punished me many times³
 .many times during each day
 .He has caused my skin and my flesh to become old⁴
 .He has broken my bones
 He has surrounded me with things⁵
 .that make me suffer very bitterly
 It is as though he has buried me in a dark place⁶
 .like those who have been dead for a long time
 ,It is as though he has built a prison wall around me⁷
 .and fastened me with heavy chains, so I cannot escape
 ,Although I call out and cry out for him to help me⁸
 .he does not pay attention to me
 It is as though he has blocked my path with a high stone wall⁹
 .and has caused me to wander everywhere to try to get out
 He has waited to attack me¹⁰
 .like a bear or a lion hides and waits to attack a man
 ,It is as though a bear has dragged me off the path and mauled me¹¹
 .and left me alone without help
 It is as though he strung his bow and made me the target¹²
 .to shoot at with his arrows
 It is as though he shot his arrows¹³
 .deep into my body
 ;All my relatives laugh at me¹⁴
 .all during each day they sing songs that make fun of me
 ,Yahweh has made me suffer greatly¹⁵
 .like someone suffers after drinking something very bitter
 ;It is as though he has caused me to chew gravel that broke my teeth¹⁶
 .it is as though he has trampled me in the ground
 ;Things no longer go well for me¹⁷
 .I no longer remember being prosperous
 .I continue to say to myself, "I am not strong enough to bear any more hardships"¹⁸

”.I no longer expect that Yahweh will rescue me
 ,When I think about how I suffer and how I wander far from home¹⁹
 .it is like drinking a very bitter liquid
 I will never forget this time²⁰
 .when I feel very depressed
 ,However, I confidently expect Yahweh to do good things for me again²¹
 .and this I know is true
 Yahweh never stops faithfully loving us, and he shows his compassion for us²²
 .forever
 .He never stops acting kindly toward us
 .Every morning he acts mercifully toward us again²³
 .He is the one in whom we can always trust
 ”!So I sincerely say to myself, “Yahweh gives me what I need²⁴
 .Because I believe this, I will confidently wait for him to do good things for me
 ,Yahweh is good to all those who depend on him²⁵
 .to those who seek him to help them
 So it is good for us to wait quietly²⁶
 .for Yahweh to save us
 And it is good for us to suffer patiently²⁷
 .while we are young
 ,Those who seek him to help them should sit by themselves and not complain²⁸
 .because they know that it is Yahweh who has allowed them to suffer
 ,They should lie in the dirt, with their faces on the ground²⁹
 .because they can still hope that Yahweh will help them
 ,If someone strikes us on one cheek³⁰
 ,we should turn the other cheek toward that person in order that he may strike it, too
 .and accept it when others insult us
 .The Lord does not abandon his people forever³¹
 ,Sometimes he causes us to suffer³²
 but he also acts kindly toward us
 .because he continually and faithfully loves us
 And he does not take pleasure when he causes people to suffer³³
 .or be sad

,If people mistreat and oppress all the prisoners³⁴
 or if they rebel against God³⁵
 ,by refusing to do for others what is right
 ,or if they cause judges to decide matters unjustly³⁶
 .the Lord certainly sees all these things
 No one can make something happen³⁷
 .unless Yahweh has already decided that it should happen
 ,God in heaven is the one who commands that disasters should happen³⁸
 .and he also causes good things to happen
 So it is certainly not right for us, who are only people on earth, to complain³⁹
 .when he punishes us for the sins that we have committed
 ;Instead, we should think carefully about how we behave⁴⁰
 .we should turn back to Yahweh
 We should pray with all our inner beings and lift up our arms⁴¹
 ,toward God in heaven, and say
 ,We have sinned and rebelled against you“⁴²
 .and you have not forgiven us
 ;You have been very angry and chased after us⁴³
 .you have slaughtered us without pitying us
 ,You have hidden yourself away, as if you were in a cloud⁴⁴
 .so that you will not hear us when we pray
 ,You have made us go among the foreign peoples⁴⁵
 .and they think we are only garbage
 .All our enemies have spoken things to insult us⁴⁶
 ,We are constantly afraid that people will trap us⁴⁷
 .because we have experienced so many disasters and so much ruin
 Many tears flow from my eyes⁴⁸
 .because my people have been destroyed
 ;My tears continually flow⁴⁹
 they will not stop
 .until Yahweh looks down from heaven and sees us⁵⁰
 I am very grieved⁵¹

.because of what has happened to the women of my city

My enemies hunted for me⁵²

like people hunt for a bird to kill it

.even though there was no reason for them to do that

,They threw me into a pit to kill me⁵³

.and placed a heavy stone over the top of it

,The water in the pit rose above my head⁵⁴

'!and I said to myself, 'I am about to die

,But from the bottom of the pit I cried out to you⁵⁵

'!Yahweh, help me'

,I pleaded with you⁵⁶

'!Do not refuse to hear me when I cry out to you'

Then you answered me⁵⁷

'!and said, 'Do not be afraid

;Yahweh, you argued for me when people wanted to condemn me and execute me⁵⁸

.you did not allow me to die

,Now, Yahweh, you have seen the evil things that my enemies have done to me⁵⁹

.so judge my case and show that I have done nothing wrong

You know the evil things⁶⁰

.that they are planning to do to me

;Yahweh, you have heard them insult me⁶¹

.you have heard what they plan to do to me

,Every day they whisper and mutter things about me⁶²

.all during the day

,Look at them! Whatever they are doing at the moment⁶³

.they make fun of me by the songs that they sing

!Yahweh, give them what they deserve⁶⁴

!Pay them back for what they have done to me

,You permit them to do whatever they want⁶⁵

.and you punish them by taking away their shame

.That is why your curse is upon them

,Because you are angry with them, pursue them and get rid of them⁶⁶

".until none of them remain on the earth

,Previously our people were like pure gold¹ 4
 .but now they are worthless
 ,Just as our enemies have scattered the sacred stones in the temple
 .so they have also scattered our young men
 ,The young men of Jerusalem were as valuable as large amounts of gold²
 .but now people consider them to be as worthless as ordinary clay pots
 ,Even the female jackals feed their pups³
 ;but my people act cruelly toward their own children
 .the mothers are like ostriches in the desert that abandon their eggs
 My people's infants' tongues cling to the roofs of their mouths⁴
 ;because they are extremely thirsty
 ,the children plead for some food
 .but no one gives them any
 People who previously ate fine food⁵
 ;are now starving in the streets
 those who previously wore fine clothes
 .now lie upon the rubbish heaps with nothing to eat
 .The people of Sodom died very suddenly in a disaster⁶
 But God punished my people
 ,more severely than the people of Sodom
 .and no one was concerned about all that we suffered
 ,Our leaders used to be like pure snow or white milk⁷
 .they were so clean and spotless
 ,Their bodies were healthy
 .pink like coral and brilliant like sapphires
 ,Now our leaders' faces are blacker than soot⁸
 .and no one recognizes them when they walk in the streets
 ,Their skin has shriveled and it hangs on their bones
 .and it has become as dry as a stick of wood
 It is better to die in a battle⁹
 .than to die of hunger
 ,There was no food to harvest in the fields
 .so the people slowly starved until they died

Women who usually acted with love and compassion¹⁰
 ;have killed and cooked their own children
 ,they ate them when there was no other food
 .when Jerusalem was being destroyed by attacking armies
 !Yahweh has shown to everyone how angry he was with his people¹¹
 His anger spread like a fire in Zion (the city of Jerusalem)
 .that burned the city down to its rock foundations
 None of the kings on the earth or anyone else¹²
 .believed that any of our enemies could enter the gates of Jerusalem
 ;But that is what happened¹³
 ;it happened because the prophets sinned
 the priests also sinned
 .by causing innocent people to die
 The priests and prophets wander through the streets¹⁴
 .as though they were blind
 No one will touch them
 .because their clothes are stained with the blood of those innocent people
 ,These people shouted at the priests and prophets, saying¹⁵
 ”!Stay away from us! Do not touch us“
 ,So the priests and prophets have fled from Israel
 ,and they wander around from one country to another
 ”!but people in each country keep saying to them, “You cannot stay here
 ;It is Yahweh himself who has scattered them¹⁶
 .he no longer is concerned about them
 .People do not welcome our priests any longer, and they care nothing for the elders
 ,We continued to look for someone to help us before it was too late¹⁷
 .but it was useless
 ,We continued to watch to see if one of our allies would save us
 .but none of the nations that we were waiting for was willing to help us
 ,Our enemies were pursuing us¹⁸
 .so we could not even walk in our streets because they could take us as prisoners
 ;Our enemies were about to capture us
 .it was time for them to kill us
 .Those who ran after us were faster than eagles flying in the sky¹⁹

Even if we fled to the mountains
 ,or hid in the desert
 .they went there ahead of us and waited to attack us
 ,Our king, whom Yahweh had appointed²⁰
 ,the one who enabled us to live
 the one whom we trusted to protect us
 —when we had to live in the other nations as slaves
 ,the enemy captured him
 .as you would capture an animal in a pit
 ,You people of Edom and Uz²¹
 ,you should be happy while you can
 .but Yahweh will punish you also
 .You will become so drunk that you will strip off your own clothes
 ,You people of Zion (whose home is in Jerusalem)²²
 .the time when Yahweh punishes you for your sins will come to an end
 .He will bring an end to the time you must spend in exile
 But you people who are from Edom, Yahweh will punish you for your sins
 .and he will make known to everyone the wicked things you have done

.Yahweh, think about what has happened to us¹ **5**
 .See how no one respects us any longer
 ,Foreigners have seized our property²
 .and now they live in our homes
 ,Our enemies have killed our fathers³
 .and caused our mothers to become widows
 ,Now they make us pay for water to drink⁴
 .and pay for firewood
 ;The enemy runs after us and is very close to us⁵
 .we are exhausted, but they do not allow us to rest
 ,In order to get enough food to remain alive⁶
 .we begged Egypt and Assyria to help us
 ,Our ancestors sinned, and now they are dead⁷
 .but we are suffering for the sins that they committed

Now the people who rule over us are themselves slaves to their own masters in⁸
. Babylon
. There is no one who can rescue us from their power
, We go far to look for food, but we are in danger of dying when we do so⁹
. because of the robbers who live in the wilderness
, Our skin has become hot like an oven¹⁰
. and we have a very high fever because we are extremely hungry
, Our enemies have violated the women in Jerusalem¹¹
. and they have done that to the young women in all the towns of Judea
, Our enemies have hanged our leaders¹²
. and they have not respected our elders
, They force our young men to grind flour with millstones¹³
. and young boys stagger while they are forced to carry heavy loads of firewood
; Our elders no longer sit at the city gates to make important decisions¹⁴
. the young men no longer play their musical instruments
; We are no longer joyful¹⁵
. instead of dancing joyfully, we now mourn
. The wreaths of flowers have fallen off our heads¹⁶
. Terrible things have happened to us because of the sins that we committed
, We are tired and discouraged¹⁷
. and we cannot see well because our eyes are full of tears
, Jerusalem has no one living any more in it¹⁸
. and jackals prowl around in it
! But Yahweh, you rule forever¹⁹
. You continue to rule from one generation to the next generation
? So why have you forgotten us²⁰
? Will you abandon us for a very long time
, Please enable us to return to you²¹
. and enable us to prosper as we did previously
? Please do that, or is it really true that you have rejected us forever²²
? Is it really true that you will never stop being extremely angry with us