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Lamentations

Lamentations 1

Lamentations 1:1

ULT

¹ O how she sits alone, that city, a mighty people. She has become like a widow, mighty among nations. A princess among the provinces, she became a slave.

UST

¹ Jerusalem was once full of people, 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.

What has the city of Jerusalem become like even though she was once a mighty nation?

The city has become like a widow.

Lamentations 1:2

ULT

² She weeps excessively in the night and her tears are on her cheeks. Of all her lovers, no one brings her comfort. All her friends betrayed her. They have become for her enemies.

UST

² We in the city weep bitterly all during the nights, 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.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 1:3**ULT**

³ Judah is exiled, for affliction and great servitude. She sits among the nations. She finds no rest. All of her pursuers overtake her in the midst of distress.

UST

³ The people of Judah have become poor 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.

What can Judah not find even though she lives among the nations?

Judah can find no rest even though she lives among the nations.

Lamentations 1:4**ULT**

⁴ The roads of Zion mourn; no one is coming to the appointed time. All her gates are desolate. Her priests are groaning. Her virgins are grieving and she makes herself bitter.

UST

⁴ The roads to Mount Zion are empty 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.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 1:5**ULT**

⁵ Her adversaries have become a chief; her enemies prosper for Yahweh has afflicted her because of her many transgressions. Her children go into captivity before the adversary.

UST

⁵ Our enemies are now masters of our city, 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.

Why has Yahweh afflicted the city of Jerusalem?

Yahweh has afflicted the city of Jerusalem because of her many sins.

Lamentations 1:6**ULT**

⁶ All her splendor was sent out from the daughter of Zion. Her princes have become like deer; they do not find a pasture and they go without strength before the pursuer.

UST

⁶ Jerusalem was a beautiful city, 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.

What has left the daughter of Zion?

Beauty has left the daughter of Zion.

Lamentations 1:7**ULT**

⁷ Jerusalem remembers the days of her affliction and her homelessness, all her treasures which were from former days. When her people fell into the hand of the adversary and there was no one to help her, the adversaries saw her. They laughed over her destruction.

UST

⁷ We, the people of Jerusalem, are sad and have no more homes to live in; 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.

What did Jerusalem have in former days that she now calls to mind?

Jerusalem recalls all her precious treasures that she had in former days.

Lamentations 1:8**ULT**

⁸ Jerusalem sinned greatly; therefore, she became filthy. All her glory is scorned, for they have seen her nakedness; again, she groans and turns away.

UST

⁸ We, the people of Jerusalem, have sinned very much; 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.

Because Jerusalem sinned greatly, what has she become like?

Jerusalem has become like a menstrual rag.

Lamentations 1:9**ULT**

⁹ Her uncleanness is in her skirt. She did not remember her end and her descent was marvelous. There was no comforter for her. "O, Yahweh, see my affliction, for the enemy is great!"

UST

⁹ It is as if our city has become filthy because we have sinned so greatly; 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!"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 1:10**ULT**

¹⁰ The adversary spread his hand over all her treasures. So, she saw the nations; they entered her sanctuary, those whom you ordered they not enter into your assembly.

UST

¹⁰ Our enemies have taken away all our treasures, 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.

What has Jerusalem seen enter her sanctuary even though Yahweh had commanded that they must not enter?

Jerusalem has seen the nations enter her sanctuary.

Lamentations 1:11**ULT**

¹¹ All her people are groaning, searching for bread. They give their treasures to restore life with food. "O, Yahweh, look and see, for I have become worthless.

UST

¹¹ All the people in the city cry out with pain 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.

What do the people do as they search for bread?

The people groan as they search for bread.

Lamentations 1:12**ULT**

¹² Is it nothing to you, all those passing by the way? Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow, which has been forced on me, which Yahweh inflicted on the day of his fierce anger.

UST

¹² You people who pass by, 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.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 1:13**ULT**

¹³ From on high, he sent fire into my bones and brought it down. He spread a net for my feet and turned me away. He made me desolate, every day of menstration.

UST

¹³ It is as though he sent a fire from heaven 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.

What has Yahweh spread before the feet of Jerusalem to turn her back?

Yahweh has spread a net before the feet of Jerusalem.

Lamentations 1:14**ULT**

¹⁴ The yoke of my transgressions is bound. They are knit by his hand. They are placed upon my neck. My strength is made to stumble. The Lord appointed me with hands I cannot raise.

UST

¹⁴ He turned the sins that I have committed into a heavy load for me to carry; 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.

What has failed because of the yoke of Jerusalem's transgressions that are knit together and placed on her neck?

Jerusalem's strength has failed because of the yoke of her transgressions placed on her neck.

Lamentations 1:15**ULT**

¹⁵ The Lord has rejected all my mighty men in my midst. He has spoken against me an appointed time to destroy my young men. The Lord has tread the winepress for the virgin daughter of Judah.

UST

¹⁵ The Lord looked at my mighty soldiers, who kept me safe. 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.

Like what has the Lord trampled the virgin daughter of Judah?

The Lord has trampled the virgin daughter of Judah like grapes in a wine press.

Lamentations 1:16**ULT**

¹⁶ Because of these things, I weep. O my eyes, my eyes overflow with water; for the comforter is far from me, one who restores my life. My sons have become desolate, for the enemy is made mighty."

UST

¹⁶ I weep because of all these things. 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.

Why are Jerusalem's children desolate?

Jerusalem's children are desolate because the enemy has triumphed.

Lamentations 1:17**ULT**

¹⁷ Zion has spread her hands wide; there is no comforter for her. Yahweh commanded that those surrounding Jacob be his adversaries. Jerusalem has become filth in their midst.

UST

¹⁷ The people who lived in Zion (the city of Jerusalem) 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.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 1:18**ULT**

¹⁸ “Yahweh is surely righteous, for I disobeyed his word. Hear, all peoples, and see my sorrow. My virgins and my young men have gone into captivity.

UST

¹⁸ But what Yahweh has done to me is fair, 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.

Who have gone into captivity because Jerusalem rebelled against Yahweh’s commandment?

Jerusalem’s virgins and vigorous men have gone into captivity.

Lamentations 1:19**ULT**

¹⁹ I called to my lovers; they deceived me. My priests and my elders perished in the city, while they sought their food and restored their life.

UST

¹⁹ I pleaded with our allies, in whom we trusted, to help, 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.

Who perished in the city while they sought food to restore their lives?

Jerusalem’s priests and elders perished in the city.

Lamentations 1:20**ULT**

²⁰ Look, O Yahweh, for I am engulfed; my stomach churns, my heart is undone within me, for I have disobeyed grievously. From the outside, the sword makes a barren womb inside a house like death.

UST

²⁰ Yahweh, see that I am suffering very much! 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.

What is turned within Jerusalem because she grievously rebelled?

Jerusalem’s heart is turned within her.

Lamentations 1:21**ULT**

²¹ Hear, for I am groaning. There is no comforter for me. All my enemies heard my trouble. They rejoiced that you did it. You brought about the day you declared. Yet, may they become like me.

UST

²¹ Hear my groaning! 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!

What do the enemies of Jerusalem do when they hear of her adversity?

The enemies of Jerusalem rejoice.

Lamentations 1:22**ULT**

²² May all their evil come before you and deal with them just as you have dealt with me because of all my transgressions. For my groans are many and my heart is faint."

UST

²² Yahweh, let those evil deeds come near to you 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.

What does Jerusalem request Yahweh to do to her enemies as they come before Yahweh?

Jerusalem asks that Yahweh would torment her enemies as Yahweh has tormented her for all her transgressions.

Lamentations 2

Lamentations 2:1

ULT

¹ O how the Lord engulfed in his anger the daughter of Zion. He has thrown down from heaven to earth the splendor of Israel. And he has not remembered the footstool of his feet on the day of his anger.

UST

¹ The Lord was extremely angry with us; 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.

How does the Lord express his anger because of Jeremiah's rebellion? (vv1-2)

He has taken away the beauty of Israel, has no compassion for the towns of Jacob, and has struck down the fortified cities of Judah.

Lamentations 2:2

ULT

² The Lord devoured; he did not show compassion on all the pastures of Jacob. In his fury, he threw down the fortifications of the daughter of Judah. He struck the earth with disgrace, the kingdom and its princes.

UST

² The Lord destroyed the homes of the people of Judah; 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.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 2:3

ULT

³ With fierce anger he cut off every horn of Israel. He turned away his right hand from before the enemy. And he has burned Jacob; like a flame of fire it devoured the surrounding.

UST

³ Because he was extremely angry, 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.

How does his anger affect Israel and Zion? (vv3-4)

The Lord has removed all of Israel's strength and poured his wrath on Zion.

Lamentations 2:4**ULT**

⁴ He has bent his bow like an enemy; his right hand is posed like an adversary. And he has slain all those precious to the eye in the tent of the daughter of Zion. he has poured out his wrath like fire.

UST

⁴ He has gotten ready to kill us, his people, 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.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 2:5**ULT**

⁵ The Lord has become like an enemy. He has swallowed up Israel. He has swallowed up all her palaces. He has destroyed its fortifications. And he has multiplied mourning and lamentation within the daughter of Judah.

UST

⁵ The Lord has become like an enemy 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.

How is the Lord's anger shown? (vv5-6)

The Lord has become like an enemy, he destroyed the palace and the tabernacle, and has despised both king and priest.

Lamentations 2:6**ULT**

⁶ And he was violent with his garden tabernacle. He ruined his appointed place. Yahweh has caused the appointed festival and Sabbath to be forgotten in Zion. And he has despised the king and priest in his indignant anger.

UST

⁶ He has caused our enemies to smash his temple 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.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 2:7**ULT**

⁷ The Lord has rejected his altar. He abandoned his sanctuary. He has closed in the hand of the enemy the walls of her palaces. They raised a shout in the house of Yahweh, as a day of the appointed festival.

UST

⁷ Yahweh has rejected the very altar on which we had sacrificed animals to him; 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.

Why does the enemy feel victorious?

They feel victorious because the Lord rejected his altar and has given the walls of the palace over to them.

Lamentations 2:8**ULT**

⁸ Yahweh planned to destroy the wall of the daughter of Zion. He stretched out the measuring line. He did not withhold his hand from devouring. And he has brought the ramparts and wall to mourning. Together they wasted away.

UST

⁸ Yahweh was determined 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.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 2:9**ULT**

⁹ Her gates sank into the ground. He has destroyed and shattered her bars. Her king and her princes are among the nations. There is no law. Also, her prophets do not find a vision from Yahweh.

UST

⁹ The city gates have collapsed; 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.

What has happened to the gates and bars of Zion?

Her gates have sunk into the ground, and Yahweh has destroyed and broken her gate bars.

Lamentations 2:10**ULT**

¹⁰ They sit on the ground. The elders of the daughter of Zion are silenced. They have thrown up dust on their heads and put on sackcloth. The virgins of Jerusalem have bowed their heads to the ground.

UST

¹⁰ The old men of Jerusalem sit on the ground, 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.

How do the elders and virgins show they are grieving?

The elders sit on the ground, sprinkle their heads with dust while dressed in sackcloth. The virgins lower their heads to the ground.

Lamentations 2:11**ULT**

¹¹ My eyes have failed with tears. My stomach churns. My inner parts are poured out to the ground, because of the destruction of the daughter of my people, when child and infant faint in the streets of the town.

UST

¹¹ My eyes are very tired because of my tears; 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.

Why is Jeremiah lamenting? (vv11-12)

Because there is nothing for his people to eat or drink.

Lamentations 2:12**ULT**

¹² They say to their mothers, "Where is grain and wine?" when they faint like the slain in the streets of the city, when their lives are poured out in the lap of their mothers.

UST

¹² They cry out to their mothers, "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.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 2:13**ULT**

¹³ What can I testify to you? To what can I compare you, O daughter of Jerusalem? To what can I liken you, that I may comfort you, O virgin daughter of Zion? For your brokenness is as great as the sea. Who can heal you?

UST

¹³ You people of Jerusalem, 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.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 2:14**ULT**

¹⁴ Your prophets have seen for you false and worthless visions. And they did not expose your iniquity, to restore your fortunes, but they have seen for you false and enticing oracles.

UST

¹⁴ The prophets among you claimed that they had seen visions from Yahweh, 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.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 2:15**ULT**

¹⁵ All those passing on the road clap their hands at you. They hiss and shake their heads at the daughter of Jerusalem. "Is this the city that they called 'the fullness of beauty, the joy of all the earth?'"

UST

¹⁵ All those who pass by you 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?"

What do the mockers do as they pass through the city? (vv15-16)

They clap their hands, hiss and shake their heads, they whistle and grind their teeth.

Lamentations 2:16**ULT**

¹⁶ All your enemies opened their mouths against you. They hiss and grind their teeth. They say, "We have devoured! Surely this is the day we have waited for! We have found, we have seen!"

UST

¹⁶ Now all our enemies laugh at you; 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!"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 2:17**ULT**

¹⁷ Yahweh has done what he planned to finish. His word, which he commanded from days before, he has overthrown and showed no compassion. And the enemy rejoiced over you. He has lifted up the horn of your adversaries.

UST

¹⁷ Yahweh has done what he planned; 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.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 2:18**ULT**

¹⁸ Their heart cried out to the Lord, "O walls of the daughter of Zion." Like a tearful river, let your tears flow down day and night. Do not give relief to yourself. Do not rest your eyes.

UST

¹⁸ I wish the city walls could speak like the people who 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."

How do the people show their remorse? (vv18-19)

They cry out to the Lord and lift their hands to him for the sake of their children.

Lamentations 2:19**ULT**

¹⁹ Arise, shout in the night, at the center of the night watches! Pour out your heart like water before the face of the Lord. Lift up your hands to him for the life of your children, those fainting with hunger at the center of every street."

UST

¹⁹ Get up during every night and cry out; 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.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 2:20**ULT**

²⁰ Look, O Yahweh, and see those you have dealt with in this way. Should women eat their fruit, newborn children? Should priest and prophet be slaughtered in the sanctuary of the Lord?

UST

²⁰ Yahweh, look at your people and have mercy on us. 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!

Why are the people begging for Yahweh's mercy?

Because he has dealt with them so severely, they are hungry, and they are concerned about their priests being slaughtered.

Lamentations 2:21**ULT**

²¹ The young and the old lie down in the dirt of the streets. My young women and my young men have fallen by the sword. You have struck down; in the day of your anger you slaughtered. You showed no compassion.

UST

²¹ The corpses of people of all ages lie in the streets; 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.

How does Jeremiah describe the day of Yahweh's wrath? (vv21-22)

On the day of Yahweh's wrath, Yahweh killed young and old, no one survived, and he showed no compassion.

Lamentations 2:22

ULT

²² You have summoned, as a festival day, my surrounding terrors. And there was not an escapee nor survivor on the day of the anger of Yahweh. Those I birthed and multiplied, my enemy has ended them.

UST

²² You summoned my enemies to attack from every direction, 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.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3

Lamentations 3:1

ULT

¹ I am the man seeing affliction by the rod of his fury.

UST

¹ I, the one who am writing this, am a man whom Yahweh made to suffer, because he was angry.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:2

ULT

² He led me and brought about darkness and not light.

UST

² It was as though he caused me to walk in a very dark place without any light at all.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:3

ULT

³ Surely, against me he turned; his hand twisted all day.

UST

³ He has punished me many times, many times during each day.

What does the writer say that Yahweh has turned against him all the day?

Yahweh's hand is turned against him all the day.

Lamentations 3:4

ULT

⁴ He exhausted my flesh and my skin; he shattered my bones.

UST

⁴ He has caused my skin and my flesh to become old. He has broken my bones.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:5**ULT**

⁵ He built up against me and made a surrounding of bitterness and hardship.

UST

⁵ He has surrounded me with things that make me suffer very bitterly.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:6**ULT**

⁶ He makes me dwell in dark places like the dead of long ago.

UST

⁶ It is as though he has buried me in a dark place like those who have been dead for a long time.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:7**ULT**

⁷ He built a wall around me and I cannot escape. He made my chains heavy.

UST

⁷ It is as though he has built a prison wall around me, and fastened me with heavy chains, so I cannot escape.

What does the writer say that Yahweh has built around him so that he cannot escape?

Yahweh has built a wall around him.

Lamentations 3:8**ULT**

⁸ Even though I call out and cry for help, he blocks my prayer.

UST

⁸ Although I call out and cry out for him to help me, he does not pay attention to me.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:9**ULT**

⁹ He built a wall around my way with hewn stone; he perverted my paths.

UST

⁹ It is as though he has blocked my path with a high stone wall and has caused me to wander everywhere to try to get out.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:10**ULT**

¹⁰ He is a bear ready to ambush me, a lion in hiding.

UST

¹⁰ He has waited to attack me like a bear or a lion hides and waits to attack a man.

To what animal does the writer compare Yahweh and say that it is waiting to ambush him?

The writer describes Yahweh as a bear that is waiting to ambush him.

Lamentations 3:11**ULT**

¹¹ He disordered my paths and tore me apart; he has made me desolate.

UST

¹¹ It is as though a bear has dragged me off the path and mauled me, and left me alone without help.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:12**ULT**

¹² He bent his bow and set me up like a target for an arrow.

UST

¹² It is as though he strung his bow and made me the target to shoot at with his arrows.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:13**ULT**

¹³ He pierced my kidneys with the arrows of his quiver.

UST

¹³ It is as though he shot his arrows deep into my body.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:14**ULT**

¹⁴ I became a joke to all the peoples, their taunt all day.

UST

¹⁴ All my relatives laugh at me; all during each day they sing songs that make fun of me.

What has the writer become to all his people?

The writer has become a laughingstock to all his people.

Lamentations 3:15**ULT**

¹⁵ He filled me with bitterness; he forced me to drink wormwood.

UST

¹⁵ Yahweh has made me suffer greatly, like someone suffers after drinking something very bitter.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:16**ULT**

¹⁶ And he made my teeth grind with gravel; he made me cower in the dust.

UST

¹⁶ It is as though he has caused me to chew gravel that broke my teeth; it is as though he has trampled me in the ground.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:17**ULT**

¹⁷ And my soul is deprived of peace; I have forgotten good.

UST

¹⁷ Things no longer go well for me; I no longer remember being prosperous.

What can the writer no longer remember since Yahweh has removed peace from his life?

The writer can no longer remember any happiness.

Lamentations 3:18**ULT**

¹⁸ And I said, "My endurance has perished and my hope in Yahweh."

UST

¹⁸ I continue to say to myself, "I am not strong enough to bear any more hardships. I no longer expect that Yahweh will rescue me."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:19**ULT**

¹⁹ Remember my affliction and my wanderings, the wormwood and bitterness.

UST

¹⁹ When I think about how I suffer and how I wander far from home, it is like drinking a very bitter liquid.

What is the writer's mood as he calls to mind his affliction? (vv19-20)

The writer's mood is one of despair within himself as he calls to mind his affliction.

Lamentations 3:20**ULT**

²⁰ It continually remembers and my soul melts within me.

UST

²⁰ I will never forget this time when I feel very depressed.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:21**ULT**

²¹ This I return to my heart; therefore, I have hope.

UST

²¹ However, I confidently expect Yahweh to do good things for me again, and this I know is true.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:22**ULT**

²² The steadfast love of Yahweh does not cease; his mercy does not end.

UST

²² Yahweh never stops faithfully loving us, and he shows his compassion for us forever. He never stops acting kindly toward us.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:23**ULT**

²³ They are new morning by morning; great is your faithfulness.

UST

²³ Every morning he acts mercifully toward us again. He is the one in whom we can always trust.

What does the writer say occurs afresh every morning?

The writer says that Yahweh's merciful actions occur afresh every morning.

Lamentations 3:24**ULT**

²⁴ "Yahweh is my portion," my soul said; therefore, I will hope in him.

UST

²⁴ So I sincerely say to myself, "Yahweh gives me what I need!" Because I believe this, I will confidently wait for him to do good things for me.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:25**ULT**

²⁵ Yahweh is good to those who wait for him, to the soul seeking him.

UST

²⁵ Yahweh is good to all those who depend on him, to those who seek him to help them.

What is Yahweh like toward the one who waits for him and to those who wait in silence for the salvation of Yahweh? (vv25-26)

Yahweh is good to those who wait for him, and wait in silence for Yahweh's salvation.

Lamentations 3:26**ULT**

²⁶ It is good to wait and be silent for the salvation of Yahweh.

UST

²⁶ So it is good for us to wait quietly for Yahweh to save us.

How should a person sit because Yahweh has laid it upon him? (vv26-28)

A person should sit alone and silent because Yahweh has laid it upon him.

Lamentations 3:27**ULT**

²⁷ It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.

UST

²⁷ And it is good for us to suffer patiently while we are young.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:28**ULT**

²⁸ Let him sit alone and be silent when it is laid upon him.

UST

²⁸ Those who seek him to help them should sit by themselves and not complain, because they know that it is Yahweh who has allowed them to suffer.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:29**ULT**

²⁹ Let him put his mouth in the dust; perhaps there is hope.

UST

²⁹ They should lie in the dirt, with their faces on the ground, because they can still hope that Yahweh will help them.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:30**ULT**

³⁰ Let him give his cheek to the one striking him; let him be filled with reproach.

UST

³⁰ If someone strikes us on one cheek, we should turn the other cheek toward that person in order that he may strike it, too, and accept it when others insult us.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:31**ULT**

³¹ For the Lord will not withhold forever.

UST

³¹ The Lord does not abandon his people forever.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:32**ULT**

³² Though he brings grief, he will be merciful according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

UST

³² Sometimes he causes us to suffer, but he also acts kindly toward us because he continually and faithfully loves us.

What does Yahweh show, even though he brings grief?

Yahweh shows compassion even though he brings grief.

Lamentations 3:33**ULT**

³³ For he does not afflict from his heart or grieve the sons of man.

UST

³³ And he does not take pleasure when he causes people to suffer or be sad.

From where does Yahweh not oppress or torment the sons of men?

Yahweh does not oppress from his heart or torment the sons of men.

Lamentations 3:34**ULT**

³⁴ Crushing under his feet all the prisoners of the earth;

UST

³⁴ If people mistreat and oppress all the prisoners,

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:35**ULT**

³⁵ denying a man justice before the face of the Most High;

UST

³⁵ or if they rebel against God by refusing to do for others what is right,

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:36**ULT**

³⁶ perverting a man in his dispute—the Lord does not approve.

UST

³⁶ or if they cause judges to decide matters unjustly, the Lord certainly sees all these things.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:37**ULT**

³⁷ Who has spoken this and it happened, if the Lord did not command?

UST

³⁷ No one can make something happen unless Yahweh has already decided that it should happen.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:38**ULT**

³⁸ Did not trouble and good come forth from the mouth of the Most High?

UST

³⁸ God in heaven is the one who commands that disasters should happen, and he also causes good things to happen.

What two things come out of the mouth of the Most High?

Calamity and success come out of the mouth of the Most High.

Lamentations 3:39**ULT**

³⁹ How can a person, a living man, complain about his guilt?

UST

³⁹ So it is certainly not right for us, who are only people on earth, to complain when he punishes us for the sins that we have committed.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:40**ULT**

⁴⁰ Let us examine our ways and let us seek and return to Yahweh.

UST

⁴⁰ Instead, we should think carefully about how we behave; we should turn back to Yahweh.

What should the people lift up to God in the heavens when they test and examine their ways and turn back to Yahweh? (vv40-41)

The people should lift up their hearts and their hands to God in the heavens.

Lamentations 3:41**ULT**

⁴¹ Let us lift up our hearts with our hands to God in heaven.

UST

⁴¹ We should pray with all our inner beings and lift up our arms toward God in heaven, and say,

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:42**ULT**

⁴² We have surely transgressed and disobeyed you; you did not pardon.

UST

⁴² "We have sinned and rebelled against you, and you have not forgiven us.

What should the people admit that they have done against Yahweh as they pray?

They should admit that they have sinned and rebelled against Yahweh.

Lamentations 3:43**ULT**

⁴³ You wrapped in anger and pursued us; you slayed; you showed no pity.

UST

⁴³ You have been very angry and chased after us; you have slaughtered us without pitying us.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:44**ULT**

⁴⁴ You wrapped yourself in a cloud, from a prayer passing through.

UST

⁴⁴ You have hidden yourself away, as if you were in a cloud, so that you will not hear us when we pray.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:45**ULT**

⁴⁵ You made us an outcast and garbage among the nations.

UST

⁴⁵ You have made us go among the foreign peoples, and they think we are only garbage.

What does the writer say that Yahweh has made them to be among the peoples?

Yahweh has made them to be castoffs and refuse among the peoples.

Lamentations 3:46**ULT**

⁴⁶ They open their mouth against us, all our enemies.

UST

⁴⁶ All our enemies have spoken things to insult us.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:47**ULT**

⁴⁷ Panic and pitfall have come for us, ruin and destruction.

UST

⁴⁷ We are constantly afraid that people will trap us, because we have experienced so many disasters and so much ruin.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:48**ULT**

⁴⁸ My eyes flow with streams of water because the daughter of my people are destroyed.

UST

⁴⁸ Many tears flow from my eyes because my people have been destroyed.

How does the writer describe the tears that flow from his eyes? (vv48-49)

His tears are streams of water that flow out from his eyes.

Lamentations 3:49**ULT**

⁴⁹ My eye pours forth and it does not cease. There was no relief,

UST

⁴⁹ My tears continually flow; they will not stop

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:50**ULT**

⁵⁰ until he looked down and Yahweh saw from heaven.

UST

⁵⁰ until Yahweh looks down from heaven and sees us.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:51**ULT**

⁵¹ My eyes grieve my soul because of all the daughters of my city.

UST

⁵¹ I am very grieved because of what has happened to the women of my city.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:52**ULT**

⁵² Surely, my enemies hunted me like a bird without cause.

UST

⁵² My enemies hunted for me like people hunt for a bird to kill it even though there was no reason for them to do that.

What does the writer say as his enemies hunt him and destroy his life in a well and place a stone over him? (vv52-54)

He says, "I have been cut off!"

Lamentations 3:53**ULT**

⁵³ They silenced my life with a pit and threw a stone on me.

UST

⁵³ They threw me into a pit to kill me, and placed a heavy stone over the top of it.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:54**ULT**

⁵⁴ They made water overflow over my head. I said, 'I have been cut off!'

UST

⁵⁴ The water in the pit rose above my head, and I said to myself, 'I am about to die!'

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:55**ULT**

⁵⁵ I called your name, O Yahweh, from the depths of the pit.

UST

⁵⁵ But from the bottom of the pit I cried out to you, 'Yahweh, help me!'

What did Yahweh tell the writer when he called on Yahweh's name and asked Yahweh to hear his cry for help? (vv55-57)

Yahweh told him, "Do not fear!"

Lamentations 3:56**ULT**

⁵⁶ You heard my voice. 'Do not shut your ear to my relief, to my cry for help.'

UST

⁵⁶ I pleaded with you, 'Do not refuse to hear me when I cry out to you!'

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:57**ULT**

⁵⁷ You came near in the day I called you; you said, 'Do not fear.'

UST

⁵⁷ Then you answered me and said, 'Do not be afraid!'

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:58**ULT**

⁵⁸ O Lord, you defended the dispute of my soul; you saved my life.

UST

⁵⁸ Yahweh, you argued for me when people wanted to condemn me and execute me; you did not allow me to die.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:59**ULT**

⁵⁹ O Yahweh, you saw my affliction; judge my case.

UST

⁵⁹ Now, Yahweh, you have seen the evil things that my enemies have done to me, so judge my case and show that I have done nothing wrong.

How does the writer ask Yahweh to judge his case?

He asks Yahweh to judge his case justly.

Lamentations 3:60**ULT**

⁶⁰ You have seen all their insults, all their plots against me.

UST

⁶⁰ You know the evil things that they are planning to do to me.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:61**ULT**

⁶¹ You have heard their scorn, O Yahweh, all their plots against me.

UST

⁶¹ Yahweh, you have heard them insult me; you have heard what they plan to do to me.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:62**ULT**

⁶² The lips of my assailants and their songs are against me all day.

UST

⁶² Every day they whisper and mutter things about me, all during the day.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:63**ULT**

⁶³ Look! their sitting and rising, their songs are against me.

UST

⁶³ Look at them! Whatever they are doing at the moment, they make fun of me by the songs that they sing.

Of what is the writer the object from his enemies, whether in their sitting or their rising up?

He is the object of their mocking song.

Lamentations 3:64**ULT**

⁶⁴ You, O Yahweh, will return to them a payment according to the deeds of their hands.

UST

⁶⁴ Yahweh, give them what they deserve! Pay them back for what they have done to me!

What does the writer ask Yahweh to do to his enemies?

He asks Yahweh to pay back to them as much harm as what their hands have done.

Lamentations 3:65**ULT**

⁶⁵ Give them an insolent heart; your condemnation be upon them!

UST

⁶⁵ You permit them to do whatever they want, and you punish them by taking away their shame. That is why your curse is upon them.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 3:66

ULT

⁶⁶ You pursue in anger and destroy them from under heaven, O Yahweh.

UST

⁶⁶ Because you are angry with them, pursue them and get rid of them, until none of them remain on the earth."

What does the writer ask Yahweh to do to his enemies?

he asks Yahweh to pursue his enemies in his anger and destroy them everywhere under the heavens.

Lamentations 4

Lamentations 4:1

ULT

¹ O how the gold is tarnished; the pure gold has changed. The holy stones are scattered at the corner of every street.

UST

¹ Previously our people were like pure gold, 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.

What has become of the gold and the holy stones?

The gold has become completely tarnished, the purest gold has changed and the holy stones have been poured out at the head of every street.

Lamentations 4:2

ULT

² The precious sons of Zion were weighed with fine gold. O how they are regarded as clay jars, the work of potter's hands!

UST

² The young men of Jerusalem were as valuable as large amounts of gold, but now people consider them to be as worthless as ordinary clay pots.

What were the sons of Zion, and how are they now valued?

The sons of Zion were precious, valued greater than pure gold, but now they are regarded as clay jars made by potter's hands.

Lamentations 4:3

ULT

³ Even the jackals offer the breast; they nurse their cubs. The daughter of my people are fierce like the ostriches in the wilderness.

UST

³ Even the female jackals feed their pups, but my people act cruelly toward their own children; the mothers are like ostriches in the desert that abandon their eggs.

How do the daughters of his people act?

They are as cruel as the ostrich in the desert.

Lamentations 4:4**ULT**

⁴ The tongue of the nursing baby sticks to the roof of his mouth with thirst. The children ask those dispersing for food; there is none for them.

UST

⁴ My people's infants' tongues cling to the roofs of their mouths because they are extremely thirsty; the children plead for some food, but no one gives them any.

What happens to the tongue of the nursing baby and what are the children asking for?

The tongue of the nursing baby sticks to the roof of his mouth with thirst and the children are asking for bread but there is nothing for them.

Lamentations 4:5**ULT**

⁵ Those eating the finest food are desolate in the streets. Those attended with scarlet cloth embrace piles of garbage.

UST

⁵ People who previously ate fine food are now starving in the streets; those who previously wore fine clothes now lie upon the rubbish heaps with nothing to eat.

What has happened to the ones who used to eat expensive food and those who wore scarlet clothing?

The ones who used to eat expensive food are now abandoned and starving, and the ones who wore scarlet clothing are now on top of the garbage heaps.

Lamentations 4:6**ULT**

⁶ The guilt of the daughter of my people is greater than the sin of Sodom. It was overthrown as a moment and no hands were wrung for her.

UST

⁶ The people of Sodom died very suddenly in a disaster. But God punished my people more severely than the people of Sodom, and no one was concerned about all that we suffered.

How great is the iniquity of the daughter of his people?

The iniquity of the daughter is greater than the sin of Sodom.

Lamentations 4:7**ULT**

⁷ Her Nazarites were more pure than snow; they were more white than milk. Their bones were more ruddy than coral; their parts were sapphire.

UST

⁷ Our leaders used to be like pure snow or white milk, they were so clean and spotless. Their bodies were healthy, pink like coral and brilliant like sapphires.

What were her leaders like before, and how are they now? (vv7-8)

Her leaders were like snow that shines, they were as white as milk, their bodies were more ruddy than coral, and their form like sapphire. Now darkness has blackened their appearance, they are unrecognizable, and their skin clings to their withered bones.

Lamentations 4:8**ULT**

⁸ Blackness has darkened their form; they are not recognized in the streets. Their skin has shriveled on their bones; it has become dry as wood.

UST

⁸ Now our leaders' faces are blacker than soot, 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.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 4:9**ULT**

⁹ Those slain by the sword were happier than those slain by hunger, those who slowly wasted away from the piercing of the field's produce.

UST

⁹ It is better to die in a battle than to die of hunger. There was no food to harvest in the fields, so the people slowly starved until they died.

What does Jeremiah say about those who have been killed by hunger compared to those killed by the sword?

Jeremiah says that those killed by the sword are better off than those killed by hunger.

Lamentations 4:10**ULT**

¹⁰ The hands of compassionate women boiled their children; they became for them a meal in the destruction of the daughter of my people.

UST

¹⁰ Women who usually acted with love and compassion have killed and cooked their own children; they ate them when there was no other food, when Jerusalem was being destroyed by attacking armies.

What did the compassionate women do with their children?

They boiled their own children and the children became their food.

Lamentations 4:11**ULT**

¹¹ Yahweh brought to completion his wrath; he poured out his fierce anger. And he kindled a fire in Zion that consumed her foundations.

UST

¹¹ Yahweh has shown to everyone how angry he was with his people! His anger spread like a fire in Zion (the city of Jerusalem) that burned the city down to its rock foundations.

How did Yahweh satisfy his rage?

Yahweh satisfied his rage when he poured out his burning anger, kindled a fire in Zion, and devoured her foundations.

Lamentations 4:12**ULT**

¹² The kings of the earth did not believe, nor any of the inhabitants of the world, that the adversary and enemy would enter into the gates of Jerusalem.

UST

¹² None of the kings on the earth or anyone else believed that any of our enemies could enter the gates of Jerusalem.

What did the kings and the inhabitants of the world not believe could happen to Jerusalem?

They did not believe that an enemy could enter the gates of Jerusalem.

Lamentations 4:13**ULT**

¹³ The sins of her prophets were more than the iniquities of her priests; they poured out in her midst the blood of the righteous.

UST

¹³ But that is what happened; it happened because the prophets sinned; the priests also sinned by causing innocent people to die.

What did the enemy do because of the sins of the prophets and the iniquities of the priests?

The enemy entered the gates of Jerusalem.

Lamentations 4:14**ULT**

¹⁴ They stumble blind in the streets. They are defiled with blood. There were none able to touch their clothes.

UST

¹⁴ The priests and prophets wander through the streets as though they were blind. No one will touch them because their clothes are stained with the blood of those innocent people.

What happened to those prophets and priests?

They wandered like blind men in the streets and were defiled by that blood so no one was able to touch their clothes.

Lamentations 4:15**ULT**

¹⁵ "Away! Unclean!" they shouted at them. "Away! Away! Do not touch!" So they fled, even stumbling. They said among the nations, "They shall not prolong the sojourn."

UST

¹⁵ These people shouted at the priests and prophets, saying, "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!"

What did the prophets and priests cry out?

The prophets and the priests cried out and said to flee and to not touch them.

Where did the prophets and the priests go?

They wandered to other lands where the Gentiles said they could not live there any longer.

Lamentations 4:16**ULT**

¹⁶ The face of Yahweh scattered them; he will not continue to watch over them. The face of the priests will no longer rise up; the elders show no grace.

UST

¹⁶ It is Yahweh himself who has scattered them; he no longer is concerned about them. People do not welcome our priests any longer, and they care nothing for the elders.

What did Yahweh do to the prophets and the priests?

Yahweh scattered the prophets and priests and does not look on them with favor any longer.

How are the priests received and how are the elders received?

The priests are not respected anymore and the elders are not shown any concern.

Lamentations 4:17**ULT**

¹⁷ In our waiting, our eyes closed in vain for our helper. In our watchtowers, we looked to the nations. He did not rescue.

UST

¹⁷ We continued to look for someone to help us before it was too late, 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.

What failed to find worthless help?

Their eyes failed to find help.

Lamentations 4:18**ULT**

¹⁸ They tracked our steps, walking in our paths. Our end drew near. Our days were fulfilled, for our end has come.

UST

¹⁸ Our enemies were pursuing us, 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.

What did the enemy do to them?

They hunted their steps going through their streets.

What did the people say about their end?

They said their end was near, their days were finished, and their end had come.

Lamentations 4:19**ULT**

¹⁹ Our pursuers became more swift than eagles of heaven. They set us ablaze on the mountains; they lay in wait for us in the wilderness.

UST

¹⁹ Those who ran after us were faster than eagles flying in the sky. Even if we fled to the mountains or hid in the desert, they went there ahead of us and waited to attack us.

How did the people describe the pursuers, and what did the pursuers do to them?

The pursuers were swifter than the eagles and chased them to the mountains and lay in wait for them in the wilderness.

Lamentations 4:20**ULT**

²⁰ A breath of our nostrils, Yahweh's anointed was captured in their pits; of whom we said, "In his shadow, we will live among the nations."

UST

²⁰ Our king, whom Yahweh had appointed, 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.

What happened to their king?

Their king was captured in the enemy's pits.

Lamentations 4:21**ULT**

²¹ Rejoice and be glad, O Daughter of Edom, who dwells in the land of Uz. Against you also the cup will pass; you will be drunk and go about naked.

UST

²¹ You people of Edom and Uz, 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.

Why is the daughter of Edom told to rejoice and be glad?

She is told to rejoice and be glad for the cup will pass to her and she will be drunk and strip naked.

Lamentations 4:22**ULT**

²² O Daughter of Zion, your guilt will finish; he will not extend your exile. He will visit your guilt, O Daughter of Edom; he will uncover your sins.

UST

²² You people of Zion (whose home is in Jerusalem), 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.

What is the daughter of Zion told?

She is told her guilt is ended and Yahweh will no longer keep her in exile.

What is the daughter of Edom told?

The daughter of Edom is told Yahweh will punish her guilt and will uncover her sins.

Lamentations 5

Lamentations 5:1

ULT

¹ Remember, O Yahweh, what has happened to us; look and see our disgrace.

UST

¹ Yahweh, think about what has happened to us. See how no one respects us any longer.

What does Jeremiah ask Yahweh to do?

Jeremiah asks Yahweh to call to mind what has happened to them and to see their shame.

Lamentations 5:2

ULT

² Our inheritance has been turned over to strangers; our houses to foreigners.

UST

² Foreigners have seized our property, and now they live in our homes.

What does Jeremiah tell Yahweh has happened to their inheritance?

Jeremiah tells Yahweh that their inheritance has been turned over to strangers, and their houses to foreigners.

Lamentations 5:3

ULT

³ We have become orphans, there is no father, and our mothers are like widows.

UST

³ Our enemies have killed our fathers, and caused our mothers to become widows.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 5:4**ULT**

⁴ We drink our water with silver; we bring in our wood with a price.

UST

⁴ Now they make us pay for water to drink, and pay for firewood.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 5:5**ULT**

⁵ We are pressed on our necks. We toil; there is no rest for us.

UST

⁵ The enemy runs after us and is very close to us; we are exhausted, but they do not allow us to rest.

How does Jeremiah describe what is happening to them? (vv5-6)

Their enemies run after them, they are weary, and they have reached out to the Egyptians and Assyrians for food.

Lamentations 5:6**ULT**

⁶ We have given a hand to Egypt, Assyria to satisfy bread.

UST

⁶ In order to get enough food to remain alive, we begged Egypt and Assyria to help us.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 5:7**ULT**

⁷ Our fathers sinned; they are no more. We ourselves bear their iniquities.

UST

⁷ Our ancestors sinned, and now they are dead, but we are suffering for the sins that they committed.

What are the people saying about sin?

They are saying their fathers sinned and they bear their fathers' sins.

Lamentations 5:8**ULT**

⁸ Slaves rule over us; there is no one to deliver from their hand.

UST

⁸ Now the people who rule over us are themselves slaves to their own masters in Babylon. There is no one who can rescue us from their power.

What are the people saying about the slaves?

The people are saying the slaves rule over them and there is no one to rescue them.

Lamentations 5:9**ULT**

⁹ We bring in our bread by our lives, from the sword blade of the wilderness.

UST

⁹ We go far to look for food, but we are in danger of dying when we do so, because of the robbers who live in the wilderness.

How do they describe themselves when they go out to get bread?

They risk their lives to get bread in the face of the sword in the wilderness.

Lamentations 5:10**ULT**

¹⁰ Our skin grows hot as an oven, from the burning of hunger.

UST

¹⁰ Our skin has become hot like an oven, and we have a very high fever because we are extremely hungry.

How do they describe their skin?

Their skin is like an oven and burnt up from the fever of famine.

Lamentations 5:11**ULT**

¹¹ Women are raped in Zion; virgins in the cities of Judah.

UST

¹¹ Our enemies have violated the women in Jerusalem, and they have done that to the young women in all the towns of Judea.

What happened to the women and virgins?

The women of Zion and the virgins of the cities of Judah were raped.

Lamentations 5:12**ULT**

¹² Princes are hung by their hands; they show no honor to the face of elders.

UST

¹² Our enemies have hanged our leaders, and they have not respected our elders.

What happened to the princes and the elders?

The princes were hung by their hands and the elders were not honored.

Lamentations 5:13**ULT**

¹³ Young men lift the grind stone and boys stagger with wood.

UST

¹³ They force our young men to grind flour with millstones, and young boys stagger while they are forced to carry heavy loads of firewood.

What happened to the vigorous men and youthful men?

The vigorous men were brought up to the grinding house and the youthful men staggered beneath logs.

Lamentations 5:14**ULT**

¹⁴ The elders cease from the gate, the young men from their songs.

UST

¹⁴ Our elders no longer sit at the city gates to make important decisions; the young men no longer play their musical instruments.

What happened to the elders and the vigorous men?

The elders were removed from the city gate and the vigorous men from their music.

Lamentations 5:15**ULT**

¹⁵ Our hearts cease from joy; our dancing has turned to mourning.

UST

¹⁵ We are no longer joyful; instead of dancing joyfully, we now mourn.

How do they describe the joy of their heart, their dances, and their crown? (vv15-16)

Their joy has ceased, their dances have changed into mourning, and the crown has fallen from their head.

Lamentations 5:16**ULT**

¹⁶ The crown of our head has fallen. Woe to us, for we have sinned!

UST

¹⁶ The wreaths of flowers have fallen off our heads. Terrible things have happened to us because of the sins that we committed.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 5:17**ULT**

¹⁷ On account of this, our hearts have become sick; on account of these things, our eyes grow dim.

UST

¹⁷ We are tired and discouraged, and we cannot see well because our eyes are full of tears.

What do they say about their hearts and eyes?

Their hearts have become sick and their eyes have grown dim.

Lamentations 5:18**ULT**

¹⁸ On account of Mount Zion, which is desolate, jackals tread over it.

UST

¹⁸ Jerusalem has no one living any more in it, and jackals prowl around in it.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 5:19**ULT**

¹⁹ You, O Yahweh, are forever. You will sit upon your throne from generation to generation.

UST

¹⁹ But Yahweh, you rule forever! You continue to rule from one generation to the next generation.

What do they say about Yahweh's reign and throne?

Yahweh reigns forever and his throne is from generation to generation.

Lamentations 5:20**ULT**

²⁰ Why do you forget us for so long? You forsake us for many days?

UST

²⁰ So why have you forgotten us? Will you abandon us for a very long time?

What do they ask Yahweh? (vv20-21)

They ask Yahweh whether he is forgetting them forever, and if he will turn them back to him.

Lamentations 5:21**ULT**

²¹ Return us to yourself, O Yahweh, and we will be restored. Renew our days as long ago—

UST

²¹ Please enable us to return to you, and enable us to prosper as we did previously.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Lamentations 5:22**ULT**

²² unless you have utterly rejected us, are angry with us beyond measure.

UST

²² Please do that, or is it really true that you have rejected us forever? Is it really true that you will never stop being extremely angry with us?

(There are no questions for this verse.)

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