



unfoldingWord® Literal Text

Lamentations

Version 77

[en]

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Date: 2023-10-27

Version: 77

Published by: unfoldingWord

unfoldingWord® Hebrew Bible

Date: 2022-10-11

Version: 2.1.30

Published by: unfoldingWord

unfoldingWord® Greek New Testament

Date: 2023-09-26

Version: 0.34

Published by: unfoldingWord

unfoldingWord® Literal Text

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Lamentations

Chapter 1

¹O 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.

²She 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.

³Judah 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.

⁴The 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.

⁵Her 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.

⁶All 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.

⁷Jerusalem 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.

⁸Jerusalem sinned greatly; therefore, she became filth.

All her glory is scorned, for they have seen her nakedness; again, she groans and turns away.

⁹Her 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!”

10The 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.

11All 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.

12Is 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.

13From 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.

14The 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.

15The 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.

16Because 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.”

17Zion 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.

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.

19I 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.

20Look, 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.

²¹Hear, 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.

²²May 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.”

Chapter 2

¹O 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.

²The 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.

³With 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.

⁴He 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.

⁵The 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.

⁶And 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.

⁷The 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.

⁸Yahweh 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.

⁹Her 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.

¹⁰They 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.

¹¹My 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.

¹²They 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.

¹³What 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?

¹⁴Your 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.

¹⁵All 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?'"

¹⁶All 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!"

¹⁷Yahweh 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.

¹⁸Their 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.

¹⁹Arise, 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.”

²⁰Look, 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?

²¹The 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.

²²You 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.

Chapter 3

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- ¹⁴I became a joke to all the peoples, their taunt all day.
- ¹⁵He filled me with bitterness; he forced me to drink wormwood.
- ¹⁶And he made my teeth grind with gravel; he made me cower in the dust.
- ¹⁷And my soul is deprived of peace; I have forgotten good.
- ¹⁸And I said, "My endurance has perished and my hope in Yahweh."
- ¹⁹Remember my affliction and my wanderings, the wormwood and bitterness.
- ²⁰It continually remembers and my soul melts within me.
- ²¹This I return to my heart; therefore, I have hope.
- ²²The steadfast love of Yahweh does not cease; his mercy does not end.
- ²³They are new morning by morning; great is your faithfulness.
- ²⁴"Yahweh is my portion," my soul said; therefore, I will hope in him.
- ²⁵Yahweh is good to those who wait for him, to the soul seeking him.
- ²⁶It is good to wait and be silent for the salvation of Yahweh.
- ²⁷It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.
- ²⁸Let him sit alone and be silent when it is laid upon him.
- ²⁹Let him put his mouth in the dust; perhaps there is hope.
- ³⁰Let him give his cheek to the one striking him; let him be filled with reproach.
- ³¹For the Lord will not withhold forever.
- ³²Though he brings grief, he will be merciful according to the abundance of his steadfast love.
- ³³For he does not afflict from his heart or grieve the sons of man.
- ³⁴Crushing under his feet all the prisoners of the earth;
- ³⁵denying a man justice before the face of the Most High;
- ³⁶perverting a man in his dispute—the Lord does not approve.
- ³⁷Who has spoken this and it happened, if the Lord did not command?
- ³⁸Did not trouble and good come forth from the mouth of the Most High?
- ³⁹How can a person, a living man, complain about his guilt?
- ⁴⁰Let us examine our ways and let us seek and return to Yahweh.
- ⁴¹Let us lift up our hearts with our hands to God in heaven.
- ⁴²We have surely transgressed and disobeyed you; you did not pardon.

- ⁴³You wrapped in anger and pursued us; you slayed; you showed no pity.
- ⁴⁴You wrapped yourself in a cloud, from a prayer passing through.
- ⁴⁵You made us an outcast and garbage among the nations.
- ⁴⁶They open their mouth against us, all our enemies.
- ⁴⁷Panic and pitfall have come for us, ruin and destruction.
- ⁴⁸My eyes flow with streams of water because the daughter of my people are destroyed.
- ⁴⁹My eye pours forth and it does not cease. There was no relief,
- ⁵⁰until he looked down and Yahweh saw from heaven.
- ⁵¹My eyes grieve my soul because of all the daughters of my city.
- ⁵²Surely, my enemies hunted me like a bird without cause.
- ⁵³They silenced my life with a pit and threw a stone on me.
- ⁵⁴They made water overflow over my head. I said, 'I have been cut off!'
- ⁵⁵I called your name, O Yahweh, from the depths of the pit.
- ⁵⁶You heard my voice. 'Do not shut your ear to my relief, to my cry for help.'
- ⁵⁷You came near in the day I called you; you said, 'Do not fear.'
- ⁵⁸O Lord, you defended the dispute of my soul; you saved my life.
- ⁵⁹O Yahweh, you saw my affliction; judge my case.
- ⁶⁰You have seen all their insults, all their plots against me.
- ⁶¹You have heard their scorn, O Yahweh, all their plots against me.
- ⁶²The lips of my assailants and their songs are against me all day.
- ⁶³Look! their sitting and rising, their songs are against me.
- ⁶⁴You, O Yahweh, will return to them a payment according to the deeds of their hands.
- ⁶⁵Give them an insolent heart; your condemnation be upon them!
- ⁶⁶You pursue in anger and destroy them from under heaven, O Yahweh.

Chapter 4

- ¹O how the gold is tarnished; the pure gold has changed.
The holy stones are scattered at the corner of every street.
- ²The precious sons of Zion were weighed with fine gold.
O how they are regarded as clay jars, the work of potter's hands!

³Even the jackals offer the breast; they nurse their cubs.

The daughter of my people are fierce like the ostriches in the wilderness.

⁴The 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.

⁵Those eating the finest food are desolate in the streets.

Those attended with scarlet cloth embrace piles of garbage.

⁶The 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.

⁷Her Nazarites were more pure than snow; they were more white than milk.

Their bones were more ruddy than coral; their parts were sapphire.

⁸Blackness has darkened their form;

they are not recognized in the streets.

Their skin has shriveled on their bones;

it has become dry as wood.

⁹Those slain by the sword were happier than those slain by hunger,

those who slowly wasted away from the piercing of the field's produce.

¹⁰The hands of compassionate women boiled their children;

they became for them a meal in the destruction of the daughter of my people.

¹¹Yahweh brought to completion his wrath; he poured out his fierce anger.

And he kindled a fire in Zion that consumed her foundations.

¹²The 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.

¹³The sins of her prophets were more than the iniquities of her priests;

they poured out in her midst the blood of the righteous.

¹⁴They stumble blind in the streets.

They are defiled with blood.

There were none able to touch their clothes.

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."

¹⁶The 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.

¹⁷In our waiting, our eyes closed in vain for our helper.

In our watchtowers, we looked to the nations. He did not rescue.

¹⁸They tracked our steps,

walking in our paths.

Our end drew near. Our days were fulfilled, for our end has come.

¹⁹Our pursuers became more swift than eagles of heaven.

They set us ablaze on the mountains; they lay in wait for us in the wilderness.

²⁰A 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."

²¹Rejoice 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.

²²O 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.

Chapter 5

¹Remember, O Yahweh, what has happened to us;

look and see our disgrace.

²Our inheritance has been turned over to strangers;

our houses to foreigners.

³We have become orphans, there is no father,

and our mothers are like widows.

⁴We drink our water with silver;

we bring in our wood with a price.

⁵We are pressed on our necks.

We toil; there is no rest for us.

⁶We have given a hand to Egypt,

Assyria to satisfy bread.

⁷Our fathers sinned; they are no more.

We ourselves bear their iniquities.

⁸Slaves rule over us;

there is no one to deliver from their hand.

⁹We bring in our bread by our lives,

from the sword blade of the wilderness.

¹⁰Our skin grows hot as an oven,

from the burning of hunger.

¹¹Women are raped in Zion;

virgins in the cities of Judah.

¹²Princes are hung by their hands;

they show no honor to the face of elders.

¹³Young men lift the grind stone

and boys stagger with wood.

¹⁴The elders cease from the gate,

the young men from their songs.

¹⁵Our hearts cease from joy;

our dancing has turned to mourning.

¹⁶The crown of our head has fallen.

Woe to us, for we have sinned!

¹⁷On account of this, our hearts have become sick;

on account of these things, our eyes grow dim.

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

¹⁹You, O Yahweh, are forever.

You will sit upon your throne from generation to generation.

²⁰Why do you forget us for so long?

You forsake us for many days?

²¹Return us to yourself, O Yahweh, and we will be restored.

Renew our days as long ago—

²²unless you have utterly rejected us,

are angry with us beyond measure.

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