



unfoldingWord® Literal Text

v89

Lamentations

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Lamentations

1 ALEPH

How she sits alone,
the city that was great with people!
She has become like a widow
who was great among the nations.
The princess among the provinces
has become a forced laborer.

BETH

She weeps bitterly in the night,
and her tears are on her cheeks.
She has no comforter
from all those who love her.
All her companions have betrayed her;
they have become enemies to her.

GIMEL

Judah has gone into exile
from affliction and from the greatness of forced labor.
She herself has settled among the nations;
she has not found a resting place.
All her pursuers have overtaken her
between the narrow passes.

DALETH

The roads⁴ of Zion are mourning
because no one is coming to the appointed feast.
All her gates are desolate;
her priests are groaning.
Her young women are grieving,
and it is bitter to her.

HE

Her adversaries⁵ have become the head;
her enemies are prospering,
for Yahweh has afflicted her
over the greatness of her transgressions.
Her children have gone away
as captives before the adversary.

WAW

And from⁶ the daughter of Zion
all her majesty has departed.
Her princes have become like deer
that have found no pasture.
And they have walked without strength
before the pursuer.

ZAYIN

Jerusalem⁷ remembered
in the days of her affliction and of her wanderings,

all her precious things
that were from the days of old.
When her people fell into the hand of the adversary
and there was no helper for her,
the adversaries saw her;
they laughed over her collapse.

HETH

Jerusalem⁸ has grievously sinned;
therefore she has become an abhorrence.
All who honored her have despised her,
because they have seen her nakedness.
And she herself has groaned
and turned backward.

TETH

Her uncleanness is in her skirts;
she did not remember her end.
And she went down astonishingly;
there is no comforter for her.
“See, Yahweh, my affliction,
for the enemy has magnified himself.”

YODH

The adversary¹⁰ has spread out his hand
over all her precious things,
for she has seen nations
entering her sanctuary—

those whom you commanded
should not enter your assembly.

KAPH

All her people are groaning,
seeking bread.
They have given their precious things for food
to restore life.
“See, Yahweh, and look,
for I have become despised.”

LAMEDH

“Is it nothing to you,
all you who pass along the way?
Look and see
if there is any pain like my pain
that has been done to me,
which Yahweh has inflicted
on the day of his burning anger.

MEM

From on high he sent fire
into my bones, and it ruled over them.
He spread a net for my feet;
he turned me back.
He made me desolate,
faint all the day.

NUN

The yoke ¹⁴of my transgressions was bound fast,
they are intertwined by his hand;
they have come up onto my neck.
He has caused my strength to stumble;
the Lord has given me into the hands
of those I am not able to rise against.

SAMEKH

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

AYIN

Over these ¹⁶things I, I am weeping;
my eye, my eye is running down with water,
for a comforter who restores my life
is far from me.
My sons are desolate
because the enemy has prevailed.”

PE

Zion has ¹⁷spread out her hands;
there is no comforter for her.
Yahweh has commanded against Jacob

that his adversaries **should** be around him.

Jerusalem has become
an abhorrence among them.

TSADHE

“Yahweh **18** righteous,
for I have rebelled against his mouth.
Hear, please, all peoples,
and see my pain.
My young women and my young men
have gone into captivity.

QOPH

I called to **19** those who love me;
they, they deceived me.
My priests and my elders
expired in the city,
when they were seeking food for themselves
to restore their life.

RESH

See, Yahweh **20**, for I am in distress;
my inward parts are churning;
my heart has been overturned within me,
for I have bitterly rebelled.
Outside the sword bereaves;
inside **it** is like death.

SIN

They have²¹ heard that I am groaning;
there is no comforter for me.
All my enemies have heard of my calamity;
they have rejoiced, because you have done it.
You have brought the day you proclaimed,
and let them be like me.

TAW

Let all the²² evil come before you,
and deal with them
as you have dealt with me
over all my transgressions,
for my groaning is many
and my heart is faint.”

The Lord has punished Jerusalem

2 ALEPH

How the Lord has covered with a cloud the daughter of Zion in his nose!
He has cast from heaven to earth the splendor of Israel,
and he did not remember the footstool of his feet on the day of his nose.

BETH

The Lord has swallowed up;

he did not spare all the pastures of Jacob.
He has torn down in his wrath
the fortifications of the daughter of Judah;
he has brought **them** to the ground.
He has profaned the kingdom and her princes.

GIMEL

He has cut off in the burning of nose every horn of Israel.
He has turned back his right hand from the face of the enemy,
and he burned in Jacob like a fire of flame consuming all around.

DALETH

He has bent his bow like an enemy;
his right hand is stationed like an adversary,
and he has slain all the delights of the eye.
In the tent of the daughter of Zion,
he has poured out his anger like fire.

HE

The Lord **has** become like an enemy;
he has swallowed up Israel.
He has swallowed up all her citadels;
he has destroyed his fortifications,
and he has multiplied in the daughter of Judah mourning and groaning.

WAW

And he **has** done violence like **to** his garden booth;

he has destroyed his appointed place.

Yahweh has caused **people** in Zion to forget appointed festival and Sabbath,
and he has despised king and priest in the indignation of his nose.

ZAYIN

The Lord **h**as rejected his altar;

he has abhorred his sanctuary.

He has delivered up into the hand of the enemy
the walls of her palaces.

They raised a shout in the house of Yahweh
as on the day of an appointed festival.

HETH

Yahweh **p**lanned to destroy the wall of the daughter of Zion.

He stretched out the measuring line;

he did not turn back his hand from swallowing up.

And he caused the rampart and wall to mourn;
together they have languished.

TETH

Her gates **h**ave sunk into the ground;

he has destroyed and shattered her bars.

Her king and her princes **a**re among the nations;
there is no law.

Also, her prophets do not find a vision from Yahweh.

YODH

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

KAPH

My eyes ¹¹have failed with tears;
my inner parts churn.
My liver is poured out to the ground
over the destruction of the daughter of my people,
when child and infant faint in the streets of the city.

LAMEDH

To their mothers they say,
“Where is grain and wine?”
when they faint like the slain in the streets of the city,
when their life is poured out in the lap of their mothers.

MEM

What can ¹²testify 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?

NUN

Your prophets have seen for you falsehood and worthlessness,
and they did not expose your iniquity to restore your fortunes.
But they have seen for you oracles of falsehood and enticement.

SAMEKH

All those passing along 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 perfection of beauty, the joy of all the earth’?”

AYIN

All your **enemies** have opened their mouths against you.
They hiss and gnash **their** teeth;
they say, “We have swallowed **her** up!
Surely this is the day we waited for;
we have found it, we have seen it!”

PE

Yahweh **has** done what he planned;
he has fulfilled his word that he commanded from days of old.
He has torn down and has not shown compassion,
and he has made the enemy rejoice over you;
he has lifted up the horn of your adversaries.

TSADHE

Their hearts **cried** out to the Lord.
O wall of the daughter of Zion, let tears flow down like a river day and night!
Do not give yourself relief;

do not let the daughter of your eye rest.

QOPH

Arise, cry ~~19~~ out in the night,
at the beginning 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,
who are fainting with hunger at the head of every street.

RESH

See, O Ya~~20~~weh, and look!
To whom have you dealt thus?
Should women eat their fruit, children of ~~their~~ nursing?
Should priest and prophet be slain in the sanctuary of the Lord?

SIN

Young an~~21~~d lie down on the ground in the streets.
My young women and my young men have fallen by the sword.
You have slain on the day of your anger;
you have slaughtered;
you have not shown compassion.

TAW

You have ~~22~~mmoned, as on a day of an appointed festival, my terrors from all around,
and there was not on the day of the anger of Yahweh an escapee or a survivor.
Those whom I carried and multiplied, my enemy has consumed them.

3 ALEPH

I am the man seeing affliction
by the rod of his wrath.
He drove me and made me walk
in darkness and not light.
Surely against me he turns;
he turns his hand all the day.

BETH

He wore out my flesh and my skin;
he shattered my bones.
He built against me
and surrounded me with poison and hardship.
In dark places he made me dwell,
like the dead of long ago.

GIMEL

He walled me in, and I cannot go out;
he made my chains heavy.
Even when I cry out and call for help,
he shuts out my prayer.
He walled up my ways with hewn stone;
my paths he has made crooked.

DALETH

He is a bear lying in ambush to me,
a lion in hiding places.

He turned ¹¹aside my ways

and tore me apart;

he made me desolate.

He bent his ¹²bow

and set me up like a target for the arrow.

HE

He caused ¹³to enter into my kidneys

the sons of his quiver.

I became ¹⁴a laughingstock to all my people,

their mocking song all the day.

He filled me ¹⁵with bitter herbs;

he saturated me **with** wormwood.

WAW

And he made ¹⁶my teeth grind on gravel;

he pressed me down in the ashes.

And my soul ¹⁷was deprived of peace;

I have forgotten good.

And I said, ¹⁸“My endurance has perished,

and my hope from Yahweh.”

ZAYIN

Remember ¹⁹my affliction and my wandering,

the wormwood and the poison.

Remember ²⁰ing, it remembers,

and my soul bows down upon me.

This I bring ²¹back to my heart;

therefore I will hope.

HETH

The covenant ²²faithfulness of Yahweh—for we have not perished,
for his compassions have not come to an end.

They are new ²³in the mornings;

great ^{is} your faithfulness.

“Yahweh ²⁴is my portion,” my soul said;

therefore I will hope in him.

TETH

Yahweh ^{is} ²⁵good to the ones waiting for him,

to the soul ^{that} seeks him.

It is good ²⁶wait and ^{be} silent

for the salvation of Yahweh.

It is good ²⁷for a man

that he bears a yoke in his youth.

YODH

Let him sit ²⁸alone and be silent,

for he has laid ^{it} upon him.

Let him put ²⁹his mouth in the dust;

perhaps there is hope.

Let him give ³⁰his cheek to the one striking him;

let ^{people} fill him with reproach.

KAPH

For the Lord will not reject forever.

For though he causes grief,

he will have compassion according to the abundance of his covenant faithfulness.

For he does not afflict from his heart,

or grieve the sons of man.

LAMEDH

To crush under his feet

all the prisoners of the earth,

to turn aside the justice of a man

before the face of the Most High,

to pervert a man in his dispute—

the Lord does not see it.

MEM

Who is this who spoke and it came to be?

Did the Lord not command it?

From the mouth of the Most High

do not the evil things and the good go forth?

Why should a living man complain,

a man about his sins?

NUN

Let us search our ways and examine them,

and let us return to Yahweh.

Let us lift up our hearts with our hands

to God in the heavens.

We, we have transgressed and rebelled;

you have not forgiven.

SAMEKH

You covered⁴³ yourself in nose and pursued us;
you killed; you did not show pity.
You covered⁴⁴ yourself in a cloud,
from a prayer passing through.
Offscouring⁴⁵ and refuse you make us
in the midst of the peoples.

AYIN

All our enemies⁴⁶
opened their mouth against us.
Terror and⁴⁷ the pit have come to us,
the desolation and the destruction.
Streams of⁴⁸ water go down from my eye,
over the destruction of the daughter of my people.

PE

My eye pours⁴⁹ out and does not cease,
without stopping,
until he looks⁵⁰ down
and Yahweh sees from the heavens.
My eye brings⁵¹ grief to my soul
because of all the daughters of my city.

TSADHE

Hunting, ⁵²they hunted me like a bird,
my enemies without cause.
They silenced ⁵³my life in the pit
and cast a stone against me.
Waters flowed ⁵⁴over my head;
I said, "I am cut off."

QOPH

I called on ⁵⁵your name, Yahweh,
from the pit of the depths.
You heard ⁵⁶my voice;
do not hide your ear to my relief, to my cry for help.
You drew ⁵⁷near on the day I called on you;
you said, "Do not fear."

RESH

Lord, you ⁵⁸pleaded the cases of my soul;
you redeemed my life.
You have ⁵⁹seen, Yahweh, my wrong;
judge my case.
You have ⁶⁰seen all their vengeance,
all their plans against me.

SIN

You have ⁶¹heard their reproach, Yahweh,
all their plans against me,
the lips of ⁶²those rising against me and their muttering
against me all the day.

Look at ~~the~~⁶³ sitting and their rising;
I ~~am~~ their mocking song.

TAW

You will ~~re~~⁶⁴turn to them recompense, Yahweh,
according to the work of their hands.
You will ~~give~~⁶⁵ them a covering of heart;
your curse ~~will~~ be on them.
You will ~~per~~⁶⁶sue in nose and destroy them
from under the heavens of Yahweh.

4 ALEPH

How the ~~gold~~¹ is tarnished;
~~people~~ have changed the good fine gold.
The stones of holiness are poured out
at the head of every street.

BETH

The ~~precious~~² sons of Zion,
weighed against fine gold,
how they are regarded as jars of clay,
the work of the hands of a potter!

GIMEL

Even jack~~als~~³ offer the breast;
they nurse their young.
~~But~~ the daughter of my people ~~has~~ become cruel,

like ostriches in the wilderness.

DALETH

The tongue⁴ of the nursing infant sticks
to the roof of his mouth with thirst.
Children ask for bread;
there is no one breaking **it** for them.

HE

The ones ⁵eating delicacies
are desolate in the streets.
The ones reared on scarlet
embrace garbage heaps.

WAW

And the in⁶iquity of the daughter of my people is greater
than the sin of Sodom,
which was overthrown as in a moment,
and hands did not tremble for her.

ZAYIN

Her Nazir⁷tes were purer than snow;
they were whiter than milk.
Their bones were more ruddy than corals;
their form **was** sapphire.

HETH

Their appearance is darker than soot;
they are not recognized in the streets.
Their skin has shriveled on their bones;
it has become dry as wood.

TETH

Better were the slain of the sword
than the slain of hunger,
for they waste away,
pierced for lack of the fruits of the field.

YODH

The hands of compassionate women
boiled their children;
they became food for them
in the breaking of the daughter of my people.

KAPH

Yahweh brought to completion his wrath;
he poured out the burning of his nose.
And he kindled a fire in Zion,
and it consumed her foundations.

LAMEDH

The kings of the earth did not believe,
nor any of the dwellers of the world,
that an adversary and an enemy

would enter into the gates of Jerusalem.

MEM

Because of ¹³the sins of her prophets,
the iniquities of her priests,
the ones pouring out
the blood of the righteous in her midst.

NUN

They wandered ¹⁴blind in the streets;
they were defiled with blood,
so that none were able
to touch their garments.

SAMEKH

“Turn aside! ¹⁵Unclean!” they called to them.
“Turn aside! Turn aside! Do not touch!”
For they fled,
and they also wandered.
They said among the nations,
“They shall not continue to sojourn.”

AYIN

The face of ¹⁶Yahweh divided them;
he will not continue to look at them.
The face of the priests they did not lift up,
and the elders they did not show grace.

PE

Our eyes ~~still~~¹⁷ ended **looking** for
our help—a vapor.

In our watching, we watched for
a nation **that** does not save.

TSADHE

They hunted¹⁸ our steps
from walking in our open places.
Our end drew near;
our days are full,
for our end had come.

QOPH

Our pursuits¹⁹ were swifter
than the eagles of the heavens.
On the mountains they chased us;
in the wilderness they lay in wait for us.

RESH

The breath²⁰ of our nostrils, the anointed of Yahweh,
was captured in their pits,
of whom we said,
“In his shadow we will live among the nations.”

SIN

Rejoice and ²¹be glad, daughter of Edom,
dweller in the land of Uz.
Also to you the cup will pass;
you will become drunk and will make yourself naked.

TAW

Your iniquity ²²is complete, daughter of Zion;
he will not continue to exile you.
He will visit your iniquity, daughter of Edom;
he will uncover your sins.

⁵Remember, Yahweh, what has happened to us;
look and see our reproach.
Our inheritance ²³has been turned over to strangers,
our houses to foreigners.
We have ²⁴become orphans,
and there is no father;
our mothers ²⁵are like widows.
Our water ²⁶we drink for silver;
our wood comes at a price.
We are ²⁷pursued on our necks;
we are weary, and rest is not given to us.
We have ²⁸given a hand to Egypt,
²⁹to Assyria, to be satisfied ³⁰with bread.
Our father ³¹sinned;
they are no more, and we, we bear their iniquities.
Servants ³²rule over us;
there is no one tearing ³³us away from their hand.
At our lives ³⁴we bring in our bread,
from the face of the sword of the wilderness.

Our skin grows hot like an oven,
 from the face of the burning heat of famine.
 They violate women in Zion,
 virgins in the cities of Judah.
 Princes are hung by their hands;
 the faces of elders are not honored.
 Young men carry a grinding stone,
 and boys stumble under wood.
 Elders have ceased from the gate,
 young men from their music.
 The joy of our heart has ceased;
 our dancing has turned to mourning.
 The crown of our head has fallen.
 Woe now to us, for we have sinned!
 On account of this, our heart has become sick;
 on account of these things, our eyes have grown dim.
 On account of Mount Zion, which is desolate,
 foxes walk on it.
 You, Yahweh, sit forever;
 your throne is to generation and generation.
 Why do you forget us forever,
 why do you forsake us for the length of days?
 Return us to yourself, Yahweh, and let us return;
 renew our days as of old.
 For have you rejecting, rejected us?
 Have you been angry against us beyond measure?