

Faith: Tested and True

Has YHWH Determined to Destroy His People?

Lesson 5

Lamentations 2

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School

July 5, 2020

Lamentations

- ▶ A funeral dirge for the death of the nation – five poems
- ▶ Lament - Lament - Hope - Lament - Prayer
- ▶ Lament #1 – written by the prophet as he observed the destroyed city
 - Total destruction; people taken into exile
 - No comfort and no hope
 - Destruction of the Temple and priesthood
 - No observable separation between believers and unbelievers – viewed as the promised nation
 - The prophet of YHWH is distraught

The Place of Israel

- ▶ Genesis 12:1-3 – a great nation to bring blessing to all nations
- ▶ Genesis 17:6-8 – an everlasting possession – the Promised Land (Canaan)
- ▶ Genesis 50:24 – God's promise with an oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
- ▶ Exodus 19:5-6 – the great nation will be a righteous nation
- ▶ 2 Samuel 7:8-17 – an everlasting Davidic Monarchy in the Promised Land
- ▶ 2 Chronicles 7:16 – the location of the Name of YHWH forever
- ▶ 2 Chronicles 7:19-22 – warnings against rebellion
- ▶ Totally unexpected and more severe than ever anticipated
 - End of the nation
 - End of the Law
 - End of the Temple – presence of YHWH
- ▶ A promise not seen or understood (Jeremiah 31:31-40)

Lamentation 2

- ▶ The prophet writes about the siege of Jerusalem
- ▶ 1. Great disaster (2:1-9) – YHWH is determined to destroy
- ▶ 2. Great grief in Zion (2:10-14) – the people and the prophet reflect on the disaster
- ▶ 3. Great joy in Zion (2:15-16) – the enemy mocks and celebrates
- ▶ 4. The Great YHWH (2:17) – YHWH has done this
- ▶ 5. A great cry to the Lord (2:18-22)

Great Disaster (2:1-9)

- ▶ The great wrath of the Lord – 1st pair of each verse (2:1-9)
- ▶ Jeremiah addresses the sovereign God initially (2:1-7a)
- ▶ The display of the anger of the Lord – 2nd and 3rd pair of each verse
 - ▶ 1. Glory of Israel cast out – not remember His footstool
 - ▶ 2. The strongholds and royalty of Jacob cut down and profaned
 - ▶ 3. Withdrew His power and sent a flaming fire
 - ▶ 4. Destroyed what is “desirable to the eye”
 - ▶ 5. Destroyed palaces and strongholds; multiplied grief for the people.
 - ▶ 6. Destroyed temple, feasts, king and priest
 - ▶ 7. Abandoned the temple of YHWH to the enemy
 - ▶ 8. Complete and unrestrained destruction
 - of the wall the daughter of Zion
 - ▶ 9. City destroyed; royalty in exile; no law; no vision from YHWH
- ▶ The end of the Law . . . but not the end of salvation by faith

Great Sorrow in Zion (2:10-14)

- ▶ The elders of the daughters of Zion – silent
- ▶ The young maidens bow down to the ground
- ▶ The prophet weeps
- ▶ Jeremiah searches for a message of comfort
 - His heart is broken by the suffering of the people, including infants
 - He is at loss for words of comfort for ruin “as vast as the sea”
 - He despairs of anyone to heal them
 - Their prophets have deceived them with false and foolish visions
 - Their prophets did not address their sins (Jeremiah 5:11-13)

Great joy in Zion (2:15-16)

- ▶ The enemy mocks the city of beauty and joy for the earth (Ps 48:2)
- ▶ The hope of the enemy has been fulfilled

The Great YHWH (2:17)

- ▶ **The LORD has done what He purposed; . . . He has accomplished His word**
- ▶ He commanded from days of old
- ▶ He caused the enemy to rejoice over you

Parallels between Lamentations and Deuteronomy (NIV)

	Lamentations		Deuteronomy
1:3	She dwells among the nations; she finds no resting place.	28:65	Among those nations you will find no repose, no resting place for the sole of your foot.
1:5	Her foes have become her masters.	28:44	He will be the head, but you will be the tail.
1:5	Her children have gone into exile, captive before the foe.	28:32	Your sons and daughters will be given to another nation.
1:6	In weakness they have fled before the pursuer.	28:25	The LORD will cause you to be defeated before your enemies. You will come at them from one direction but flee from them in seven.
1:18	My young men and maidens have gone into exile.	28:41	You will have sons and daughters but you will not keep them, because they will go into captivity.
2:15	All who pass your way clap their hands at you; they scoff and shake their heads at the Daughter of Jerusalem.	28:37	You will become a thing of horror and an object of scorn and ridicule to all the nations where the LORD will drive you.
2:20	Should women eat their offspring, the children they have cared for?	28:53	Because of the suffering that your enemy will inflict on you during the siege, you will eat the fruit of the womb, the flesh of the sons and daughters the LORD your God has given you.
2:21	Young and old lie together in the dust of the streets.	28:50	... a fierce looking nation without respect for the old or pity for the young.
4:10	With their own hands compassionate women have cooked their own children.	28:56-57	The most gentle and sensitive women among you ... will begrudge the husband she loves and her own son or daughter the afterbirth from her womb and the children she bears. For she intends to eat them secretly during the siege.
5:2	Our inheritance has been turned over to aliens, our homes to foreigners.	28:30	You will build a house, but you will not live in it.
5:5	We are weary and find no rest.	28:65	Among those nations you will find no repose.
5:10	Our skin is as hot as an oven, feverish from hunger.	28:48	In hunger and thirst ... you will serve the enemies the Lord sends against you.
5:11	Women have been ravished in Zion, and virgins in the towns of Judah.	28:30	You will be pledged to be married to a woman, but another will take her and ravish her.
5:12	Elders are shown no respect.	28:50	... a fierce-looking nation without respect for the old or pity for the young.
5:18	Mount Zion ... lies desolate, with jackals prowling over it.	28:26	Your carcasses will be food for all the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and there will be no one to frighten them away.

Jeremiah Prays to YHWH (2:18-22)

- ▶ “Their heart cried out to the Lord . . .” – the people of Judah
 - Their sorrow led them to cry out to the Lord
 - The death of the children intensified their grief
- ▶ Cry out to YHWH to “See and look!”
 - The horror of the nation’s response to suffering
 - Cannibalism
 - Young men and women killed by the sword
 - Terrors on every side without escape
 - Priest and prophet slain in the sanctuary
- ▶ This the day of YHWH’S anger
 - He called it just like he called them to their religious feasts
 - The enemy is executing the will of YHWH
- ▶ An abrupt ending to the lament

Has YHWH Determined to Destroy His People?

- ▶ The answer is yes . . . and no!
 - The wrath of God falls as judgment upon the enemies of God – a warning of eternal wrath
 - The wrath of God falls as blessing upon the family of God – a proof of true faith
- ▶ The hope of the people of God is not in our immediate circumstances but in His Promises
- ▶ Jeremiah will teach us the proper way to respond to such disasters in Lamentation #3