

Faith: Tested and True

YHWH Will Punish Iniquity Lesson 7 Lamentations 4

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
July 19, 2020*

Israel and God's Plan of Salvation

- ▶ The Promise to the Patriarchs (Genesis 12:1-3 and 50:24)
 - A great nation in the Promised Land
 - Blessing for all nations of the earth (Psalm 133:3)
 - The dwelling place of God in Jerusalem (Zion)
 - The eternal rule of the Son of David – the Anointed One
- ▶ The formation of the nation Israel (Exodus 19:1-8)
 - YHWH'S special treasure; a nation of priests; a holy nation
 - “Tell us what to do and we will do it.”
 - The Law – defined Israel, but did not make them a great nation
 - Their history characterized by rebellion from the start
- ▶ The destruction of the nation in 586 B.C.
- ▶ Jeremiah observes, experiences, and weeps (Jer. 5:14-19)
- ▶ What does this mean for God's plan of salvation?

5 Songs of Lament

- ▶ The Way of God in fulfilling the Word of God in the Work of Salvation
 - 2 songs from a human perspective of the disaster
 - 1 song looking at the character of God
 - 2 songs from the perspective of the character of God
- ▶ YHWH's character revealed in His Salvation (Ex 34:5-7)
 - A divided nation – believers and unbelievers
 - A seemingly conflicted God – forgiving and unforgiving
 - Two attributes of God – justice and love
 - God's judgment – wrath for unbelievers and chastening for believers

The Book of Lamentations

- ▶ The structure of the book focuses attention on the main point
- ▶ Chiastic Structure
 - A: He looks at the destroyed city and weeps (1)
 - B: Weeping in the siege – YHWH destroys His people (2)
 - C: Centerpiece – a personal testimony – YHWH, faith, hope (3)
 - B': Understanding the siege – YHWH judges the sins of His people (4)
 - A': He looks at the destroyed city and hopes – prays for YHWH to restore (5)
- ▶ Literary distinctives
 - Acrostic (alphabet): 22 verses (Lam. 1, 2, 4, 5); 66 verses (Lam. 3)
 - Paired statements (264)
- ▶ Lamentations 4
 - A second look at the siege (4:1-11)
 - A personal response to YHWH (4:12-22)

Great Expectations are Dashed (4:1-2)

▶ ALEPH (4:1)

- How dark the gold has become, – How the pure gold has changed!
- The sacred stones are poured out – At the corner of every street.

▶ BETH (4:2)

- The precious sons of Zion, – Weighed against fine gold,
- *How* they are regarded as earthen jars – The work of a potter's hands!

The Depravity of the People (4:3-4)

▶ GIMEL (4:3)

- Even jackels offer the breast, – They nurse their young;
- *But* the daughter of my people has become cruel – Like ostriches in the wilderness

▶ DALET (4:4)

- The tongue of the infant cleaves – To the roof of its mouth because of thirst;
- The little ones ask for bread, – *But* no one breaks it for them.

The Fall of Jerusalem (4:5-6)

▶ HE (4:5)

- Those who ate delicacies – Are desolate in the streets;
- Those reared in purple – Embrace ash pits.

▶ VAV (4:6)

- For the iniquity of the daughter of my people – Is greater than the sin of Sodom,
- Which was overthrown as in a moment, – And no hands were turned toward her.

The Consecrated Ones (4:7-10)

▶ ZAYIN (4:7)

- Her consecrated ones were purer than snow, – They were whiter than milk;
- They were more ruddy *in* body than corals, – Their polishing *was like* lapis lazuli.

▶ CHET (4:8)

- Their appearance is blacker than soot, – They are not recognized in the streets;
- Their skin is shriveled on their bones, – It is withered, it has become like wood

▶ TET (4:9)

- Better are those slain with the sword – Than those slain with hunger;
- For they pine away, being stricken – For lack of the fruits of the field.

▶ YOD (4:10)

- The hands of compassionate women – Boiled their own children;
- They became food for them – Because of the destruction of the daughter of my people.

A New Perspective (4:11)

▶ KAPH (4:11)

- The LORD has accomplished His wrath, – He has poured out His fierce anger;
- And He has kindled a fire in Zion – Which has consumed its foundations.

Jeremiah's Faith (4:12-16)

▶ LAMED (4:12)

- The kings of the earth did not believe, – Nor *did* any of the inhabitants of the world,
- That the adversary and the enemy – Could enter the gates of Jerusalem.

▶ MEM (4:13)

- Because of the sins of her prophets – *And* the iniquities of her priests,
- Who have shed in her midst – The blood of the righteous;

▶ NUN (4:14)

- They wandered, blind, in the streets; – They were defiled with blood
- So that no one could touch – Their garments.

Jeremiah's Faith (4:12-16)

▶ SAMEKH (4:15)

- “Depart! Unclean!” they cried of themselves. – “Depart, depart, do not touch!”
- So they fled and wandered; Men among the nations said, – “They shall not continue to dwell *with us*.”

▶ PE (4:16)

- The presence of the LORD has scattered them, – He will not continue to regard them;
- They did not honor the priests, – They did not favor the elders.

The Fall of Jerusalem (4:17-20)

▶ AYIN (4:17)

- Yet our eyes failed, – *Looking* for help was useless;
- In our watching we have watched – For a nation that could not save.

▶ TSADHE (4:18)

- They hunted our steps – So that we could not walk in our streets;
- Our end drew near, our days were finished – For our end had come.

▶ QOPH(4:19)

- Our pursuers were swifter – Than the eagles of the sky;
- They chased us on the mountains, – They waited in ambush for us in the wilderness.

▶ RESH (4:20)

- The breath of our nostrils, the LORD'S anointed, – Was captured in their pits,
- Of whom we had said, "Under his shadow – We shall live among the nations."

Jeremiah's Hope (4:21-22)

▶ SHIN (4:21)

- Rejoice and be glad, O daughter of Edom, – Who dwells in the land of Uz;
- *But* the cup will come around to you as well, – You will become drunk and make yourself naked.

▶ TAV (4:22)

- *The punishment* of your iniquity has been completed, O daughter of Zion; – He will exile you no longer.
- *But* He will punish your iniquity, O daughter of Edom; – He will expose your sins!

YHWH Will Punish Iniquity

- ▶ “The just shall live by faith” – the Word of God not hindered by the Way of God
 - The Word of God is the object of our faith
 - The Way of God is the proof of our faith
 - The knowledge of God as YHWH is the foundation of our faith
 - True faith: hopes, waits silently, and seeks God
- ▶ The life of Jesus Christ, YHWH in the flesh, reveals and empowers the life of faith
- ▶ We live by hope in the immutable God in Christ, and in His immutable Word