

Through the Bible  
**LAMENTATIONS**

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# Lamentations

LAMENTATIONS IS THE BOOK THAT CONTAINS THE **LAMENTATIONS OF JEREMIAH**. THE HEBREW ALPHABET HAS 22 LETTERS IN IT, AND IN THIS BOOK, THE FIRST FOUR CHAPTERS ARE WRITTEN LIKE A POEM WITH THE VERSES BEGINNING WITH DIFFERENT LETTERS OF THE **HEBREW** ALPHABET. PSALM 119 AND PROVERBS 31:10--31 ARE OTHER EXAMPLES OF THIS STYLE OF WRITING.

THIS BOOK IS THE **FUNERAL** SONG FOR **JERUSALEM**. JEREMIAH WAS **WEEPING**. HE WAS **LAMENTING** THAT THE STREETS OF JERUSALEM ONCE BUSTLING WITH PEOPLE (1:1), NOW SAT LIKE A **WIDOW** BROKEN WITH **GRIEF** AND **ALONE** IN HER **MOURNING**. HE **IDENTIFIED** HIMSELF WITH HIS **PEOPLE** -- AND THAT IS ONE OF THE IMPORTANT THINGS WE NEED TO SEE IN THIS BOOK.

CHAPTER 1:9: THE PEOPLE OF JERUSALEM DEFILED THEMSELVES WITH **IMMORALITY** WITH NO THOUGHT OF THE **PUNISHMENT** THAT WOULD FOLLOW, LIKE MANY OF GOD'S PEOPLE ARE DOING TODAY. THEY SIN, NOT REALISING THAT ONE DAY THEY WILL HAVE TO **ANSWER** TO GOD FOR EVERY SINGLE SIN THEY EVER COMMITTED.





CHAPTER 1:14: HERE IS HOW JEREMIAH **GRAPHICALLY** DESCRIBES THE WAY THE LORD **JUDGED** JERUSALEM.

THE LORD TOOK THE **SINS** OF JERUSALEM, **WOVE** THEM INTO A ROPE, AND HITCHED THAT ROPE TO A YOE OF SLAVERY. HE **SAPPED** THEIR **STRENGTH** AND **GAVE** THEM TO THEIR **ENEMIES**" (LIVING). IT WAS THEIR OWN **SINS** THAT FORMED THE ROPE THAT TIED THEM TO THEIR **CAPTORS**.

CHAPTER 2:7: "THE LORD HAS **REJECTED** HIS ALTAR. HE **DESPISES** THE FALSE "WORSHIP" OF HIS PEOPLE. HE HAS GIVEN THEM TO THEIR **ENEMIES**." THE LORD DESPISES THE FALSE WORSHIP FOUND IN **CHRISTIAN CHURCHES** TODAY, WHEN THERE IS **SIN** IN THE CAMP. THE **LEADERS** THEMSELVES ARE **LIVING** IN **SIN**. AND SO HE HAS ALLOWED HIS PEOPLE TO BE **ENSLAVED** BY SATAN.

CHAPTER 2:9: "THE LAW IS NO MORE AND HER PROPHETS FIND NO **VISION** FROM THE LORD". THIS ALSO IS THE CONDITION WE FIND IN **CHRISTENDOM** TODAY.

CHAPTER 2:11, 12: JEREMIAH SAYS THAT HE HAS WEPT UNTIL HE COULD WEEP **NO** MORE. "I HAVE CRIED UNTIL THE TEARS **NO LONGER** COME. MY HEART IS **BROKEN**. LITTLE CHILDREN AND TINY BABIES ARE DYING IN THE STREETS". GOD'S SERVANTS TODAY MUST **WEEP** FOR THE POOR, **INNOCENT** PEOPLE WHO ARE BEING EXPLOITED BY **CORRUPT** CHRISTIAN LEADERS, AND FOR THE **YOUNG** PEOPLE WHO ARE BEING LED ASTRAY BY THE **BAD** EXAMPLES OF THEIR LEADERS. WE MUST STAND AGAINST THE **WRETCHED** STATE OF AFFAIRS IN **CHRISTENDOM** TODAY.





CHAPTER 2:14: "YOUR 'PROPHETS' HAVE SAID SO MANY **FOOLISH** THINGS **FALSE** TO THE CORE. THEY HAVE NOT TRIED TO HOLD YOU BACK FROM **SLAVERY** BY POINTING OUT YOUR **SINS**. THEY **LIED** AND SAID THAT ALL WAS WELL" (LIVING). WHAT AN **APT** DESCRIPTION OF THE STATE OF AFFAIRS IN MANY **CHURCHES** TODAY.



CHAPTER 2:19: AND SO JEREMIAH EXHORTS THE PEOPLE, "RISE IN THE **NIGHT** AND CRY TO YOUR GOD. POUR OUT YOUR HEARTS LIKE WATER TO THE LORD. LIFT UP YOUR HANDS TO HIM. PLEAD FOR YOUR CHILDREN" -- A GOOD **EXHORTATION** FOR US TODAY AS WELL.



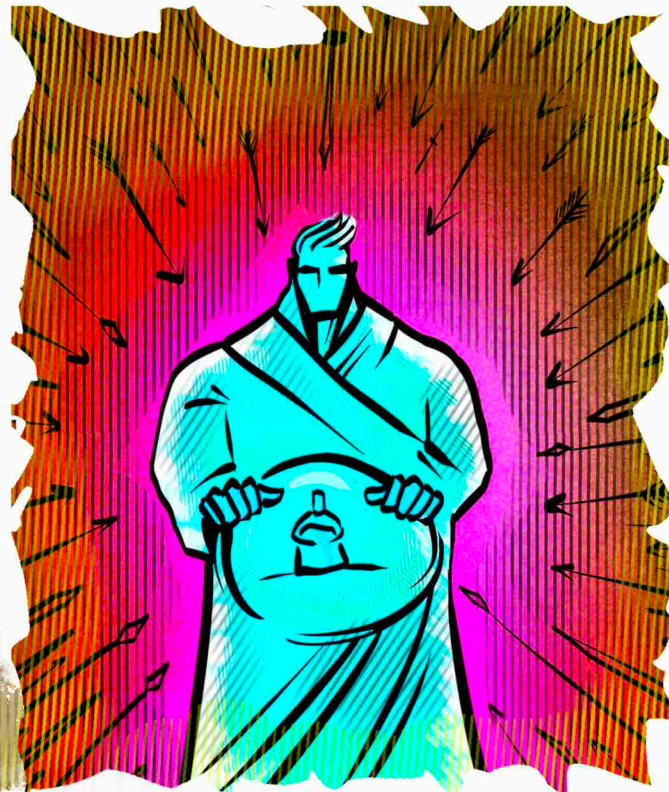
THERE IS A GOOD WORD FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE IN CHAPTER 3:27--33: "SUBMIT TO THE **YOKE** OF DISCIPLINE WHEN YOU ARE **YOUNG**. **HUMBLE** YOURSELF UNDER THE AUTHORITIES GOD PLACES OVER YOU. PUT YOUR **FACE** IN THE **DUST** AND THEN THERE WILL BE **HOPE** FOR YOU. WHEN PEOPLE STRIKE YOU, TURN THE OTHER CHEEK. (JEREMIAH SAID THAT BEFORE JESUS DID) FOR THE LORD, EVEN THOUGH HE BRINGS **GRIEF** WILL ALSO SHOW YOU **COMPASSION**."

CHAPTER 3:22, 23: "THE LORD'S **LOVING-KINDNESSES** NEVER CEASE. HIS MERCIES ARE **NEW** EVERY **MORNING**. GREAT IS HIS **FAITHFULNESS**." THE PHRASE "HIS MERCIES ARE NEW EVERY MORNING" MEANS THAT EVERY MORNING GOD LOOKS AT US AS THOUGH WE HAD **NEVER** SINNED BEFORE -- IF WE HAVE **REPENTED** OF ALL OUR PAST SINS AND CONFESSED THEM TO HIM. HE DOES NOT **REMEMBER** OUR SINS ANY MORE. THAT IS WHY HE CAN LOOK ON US WITH NEW MERCIES EVERY DAY. WE MUST **FORGIVE OTHERS** IN THE **SAME** WAY AS GOD HAS FORGIVEN US, AND LOOK ON THEM WITH NEW MERCIES EVERY DAY, NOT HOLDING THEIR PAST AGAINST THEM.





HERE IS ANOTHER GOOD WORD FOR ALL OF US IN CHAPTER 3:40: "LET US **TEST** AND **EXAMINE** OUR WAYS AND LET US **TURN** AGAIN IN **REPENTANCE** TO THE LORD."



JEREMIAH DESCRIBES HOW THE LORD PROTECTED HIM FROM HIS ENEMIES: "MY ENEMIES WHOM I HAVE **NEVER** HARMED, CHASED ME. BUT I CALLED UPON YOUR NAME, O LORD, AND YOU HEARD ME. YOU CAME AND TOLD ME NOT TO FEAR. O LORD, YOU ARE MY LAWYER. **PLEAD** MY CASE. BE MY **JUDGE** TO PROVE ME RIGHT" (3:52--59). THESE WORDS ARE AN **ENCOURAGEMENT** TO US TOO TO ASSURE US THAT THE LORD WILL BE OUR LAWYER AND **JUDGE** TO **DEFEND** US FROM OUR ENEMIES.

JEREMIAH WAS A MAN WHO NOT ONLY **PREACHED** TO THE PEOPLE BUT ALSO HAD A DEEP **CONCERN** FOR THEIR **BACKSLIDDEN** STATE IN HIS HEART. IT IS **EASY** TO GET UP AND **CRITICISE** PEOPLE IN OUR PREACHING. BUT WHAT MADE JEREMIAH GREAT WAS HIS **WEEPING** **BEHIND** THE **SCENES** FOR THEM, HIS **CONCERN** AND HIS **BURDEN**.



IF YOU WANT TO SERVE THE LORD, YOU MUST HAVE A **SECRET** LIFE LIKE THAT BEFORE GOD. YOU MUST BE **CONCERNED** THAT THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS BEING **DISHONOURED** IN INDIA TODAY.

IF YOU WEEP BEFORE THE LORD AND CRY OUT TO HIM IN THE **NIGHT** HOURS BECAUSE OF YOUR **CONCERN**, YOU WILL FIND THAT HE **STANDS** WITH YOU WHEN YOU **STAND** TO **PROCLAIM** HIS WORD IN THE PULPIT.