

Lamentations 2

New King James Version (NKJV)

Lamentations 2

God's Anger with Jerusalem

1 How the Lord has covered the daughter of Zion

With a cloud in His anger!

He cast down from heaven to the earth

The beauty of Israel,

And did not remember His footstool

In the day of His anger.

2 The Lord has swallowed up and has not pitied

All the dwelling places of Jacob.

He has thrown down in His wrath

The strongholds of the daughter of Judah;

He has brought them down to the ground;

He has profaned the kingdom and its princes.

3 He has cut off in fierce anger

Every horn of Israel;

He has drawn back His right hand

From before the enemy.

He has blazed against Jacob like a flaming fire

Devouring all around.

4 Standing like an enemy, He has bent His bow;

With His right hand, like an adversary,

He has slain all who were pleasing to His eye;

On the tent of the daughter of Zion,

He has poured out His fury like fire.

5 The Lord was like an enemy.

He has swallowed up Israel,

He has swallowed up all her palaces;
He has destroyed her strongholds,
And has increased mourning and lamentation
In the daughter of Judah.

6 He has done violence to His tabernacle,
As if it were a garden;
He has destroyed His place of assembly;
The LORD has caused
The appointed feasts and Sabbaths to be forgotten in
Zion.

In His burning indignation He has spurned the king and
the priest.

7 The Lord has spurned His altar,
He has abandoned His sanctuary;
He has given up the walls of her palaces
Into the hand of the enemy.
They have made a noise in the house of the LORD
As on the day of a set feast.

8 The LORD has purposed to destroy
The wall of the daughter of Zion.
He has stretched out a line;
He has not withdrawn His hand from destroying;
Therefore He has caused the rampart and wall to lament;
They languished together.

9 Her gates have sunk into the ground;
He has destroyed and broken her bars.
Her king and her princes are among the nations;
The Law is no more,
And her prophets find no vision from the LORD.

10 The elders of the daughter of Zion
Sit on the ground and keep silence;

They throw dust on their heads
And gird themselves with sackcloth.

The virgins of Jerusalem
Bow their heads to the ground.

11 My eyes fail with tears,
My heart is troubled;
My bile is poured on the ground
Because of the destruction of the daughter of my people,
Because the children and the infants
Faint in the streets of the city.

12 They say to their mothers,

“Where is grain and wine?”
As they swoon like the wounded
In the streets of the city,
As their life is poured out
In their mothers’ bosom.

13 How shall I console you?
To what shall I liken you,
O daughter of Jerusalem?
What shall I compare with you, that I may comfort you,
O virgin daughter of Zion?
For your ruin is spread wide as the sea;
Who can heal you?

14 Your prophets have seen for you
False and deceptive visions;
They have not uncovered your iniquity,
To bring back your captives,
But have envisioned for you false prophecies and
delusions.

15 All who pass by clap their hands at you;

They hiss and shake their heads
At the daughter of Jerusalem:

“ Is this the city that is called

‘ The perfection of beauty,
The joy of the whole earth’?”

16 All your enemies have opened their mouth against
you;

They hiss and gnash their teeth.

They say, “We have swallowed her up!
Surely this is the day we have waited for;
We have found it, we have seen it!”

17 The LORD has done what He purposed;
He has fulfilled His word
Which He commanded in days of old.
He has thrown down and has not pitied,
And He has caused an enemy to rejoice over you;
He has exalted the horn of your adversaries.

18 Their heart cried out to the Lord,

“ O wall of the daughter of Zion,
Let tears run down like a river day and night;
Give yourself no relief;
Give your eyes no rest.

19 “ Arise, cry out in the night,
At the beginning of the watches;
Pour out your heart like water before the face of the
Lord.

Lift your hands toward Him
For the life of your young children,

Who faint from hunger at the head of every street.”

20 “ See, O LORD, and consider!

To whom have You done this?

Should the women eat their offspring,

The children they have cuddled?[a]

Should the priest and prophet be slain

In the sanctuary of the Lord?

21 “ Young and old lie

On the ground in the streets;

My virgins and my young men

Have fallen by the sword;

You have slain them in the day of Your anger,

You have slaughtered and not pitied.

22 “ You have invited as to a feast day

The terrors that surround me.

In the day of the LORD’s anger

There was no refugee or survivor.

Those whom I have borne and brought up

My enemies have destroyed.”