

# **FUNERAL SONGS FOR PRODIGAL CITY**

LAMENTATIONS 1 & 2

# WE HAVE BEEN LEARNING ...

- ❑ HOW TO LAMENT FROM PSALMS (PSALM 77 & 88)
- ❑ 4 ELEMENTS OF BIBLICAL LAMENT
  - ❑ TURN (CRY OUT TO GOD)
  - ❑ COMPLAIN (EXPRESS GRIEF, FRUSTRATION, ANGER, REMORSE OVER SIN)
  - ❑ ASK (FOR HELP OR DELIVERANCE)
  - ❑ TRUST (MAY INCLUDE VOW OF PRAISE)
- ❑ TRUST & PRAISE FLOW EASIER AFTER HONEST EXPRESSION OF PAIN & QUESTIONS BEFORE GOD

# LAMENT ALSO TEACHES US VALUABLE LESSONS

- ALLOWS US TO “HEAR” WHAT GOD WANTS TO TEACH US THROUGH PAIN & SUFFERING

# THERE IS A “POINT” TO SUFFERING & PAIN

- “PAIN INSISTS UPON BEING ATTENDED TO. GOD WHISPERS TO US IN OUR PLEASURES, SPEAKS IN OUR CONSCIENCE, BUT SHOUTS IN OUR PAIN: IT IS HIS MEGAPHONE TO ROUSE A DEAF WORLD.” – C.S. LEWIS, THE PROBLEM OF PAIN

# “NEVER FORGET!”

- AUSCHWITZ AND BIRKENAU
- THE 9/11 MEMORIAL
- MEMORIALS MAKE US FEEL THE WEIGHT OF A TRAGEDY SO WE WON'T FORGET AND REPEAT MISTAKES OF THE PAST

# **“NEVER FORGET!”**

- LAMENTATIONS (LONGEST LAMENT IN THE BIBLE)
- BRINGS US INTO ISRAEL’S HORRIFIC TRAGEDY TO LEARN IMPORTANT LESSONS
- READ ON THE 9<sup>TH</sup> OF AV – TO COMMEMORATE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM (586 BC) AND TEMPLE (AD 70)

# OVERVIEW: BOOK OF LAMENTATIONS

- [HTTPS://WWW.THEGOSPELCOALITION.ORG/COURSE/LAMENTATIONS/#OVERVIEW](https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/lamentations/#overview)

# OUTLINE OF LAMENTATIONS

- **JERUSALEM'S MISERY & DESOLATION**  
(CH. 1; 22 VERSES)
- **THE LORD'S ANGER AGAINST HIS PEOPLE**  
(CH. 2; 22 VERSES)
- **JUDAH'S COMPLAINT- AND BASIS FOR CONSOLATION**  
(CH. 3; 66 VERSES)
- **CONTRAST BETWEEN JERUSALEM'S PAST & PRESENT** (CH. 4; 22 VERSES)
- **JUDAH'S APPEAL TO THE LORD FOR FORGIVENESS & RESTORATION** (CH. 5; 22 VERSES)

# JERUSALEM IS COMPARED TO

A \_\_\_\_\_ ?

HOW DESERTED LIES THE CITY,  
ONCE SO FULL OF PEOPLE!

HOW LIKE A WIDOW IS SHE,  
WHO ONCE WAS GREAT AMONG THE NATIONS!

SHE WHO WAS QUEEN AMONG THE PROVINCES  
HAS NOW BECOME A SLAVE. (LAM. 1: 1; NLT)

# WHO DIED ?

HOW DESERTED LIES THE CITY,  
ONCE SO FULL OF PEOPLE!

HOW LIKE A WIDOW IS SHE,  
WHO ONCE WAS GREAT AMONG THE NATIONS!

SHE WHO WAS QUEEN AMONG THE PROVINCES  
HAS NOW BECOME A SLAVE. (LAM. 1: 1; NLT)

# “BEFORE” AND “AFTER”

HOW DESERTED LIES THE CITY,  
ONCE SO FULL OF PEOPLE!

HOW LIKE A WIDOW IS SHE,  
WHO ONCE WAS GREAT AMONG THE NATIONS!

SHE WHO WAS QUEEN AMONG THE PROVINCES  
HAS NOW BECOME A SLAVE. (LAM. 1: 1; NLT)

# WHY IN SUCH CONDITION?

HER FOES HAVE BECOME HER MASTERS;  
HER ENEMIES ARE AT EASE.

THE LORD HAS BROUGHT HER GRIEF  
**BECAUSE OF HER MANY SINS.**

HER CHILDREN HAVE GONE INTO EXILE,  
CAPTIVE BEFORE THE FOE (1:5)

# WHY IN SUCH CONDITION?

JERUSALEM HAS SINNED GREATLY  
AND SO HAS BECOME UNCLEAN.  
ALL WHO HONORED HER DESPISE HER,  
FOR THEY HAVE ALL SEEN HER NAKED;  
SHE HERSELF GROANS  
AND TURNS AWAY. (1:8)

# ANY SIMILARITY BETWEEN JERUSALEM AND OUR NATION, CITY, & US TODAY?

- *WHAT EMOTIONS DO THESE SIMILARITIES TRIGGER IN US?*

# CHOICES BRING CONSEQUENCES

HER FILTHINESS CLUNG TO HER SKIRTS;  
SHE DID NOT CONSIDER HER FUTURE.

(1:9A)

DID JERUSALEM KNOW SHE WOULD END  
UP IN THIS HORRIFIC STATE?

# FUNERAL SONG 1 ENDS WITH CONFESSION & CRYING OUT TO GOD

“THE LORD IS RIGHTEOUS,  
YET I REBELLED AGAINST HIS COMMAND. (v. 18A)

“SEE, LORD, HOW DISTRESSED I AM!  
I AM IN TORMENT WITHIN,  
AND IN MY HEART I AM DISTURBED,  
FOR I HAVE BEEN MOST REBELLIOUS. (v. 20)

# WHO CAUSED THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE?

HOW THE LORD HAS COVERED DAUGHTER ZION  
WITH THE CLOUD OF HIS ANGER!

HE HAS HURLED DOWN THE SPLENDOR OF ISRAEL  
FROM HEAVEN TO EARTH;

HE HAS NOT REMEMBERED HIS FOOTSTOOL  
IN THE DAY OF HIS ANGER. (2:1)

# JEREMIAH SHARES HIS GRIEF WITH US

MY EYES FAIL FROM WEEPING,  
I AM IN TORMENT WITHIN;  
MY HEART IS POURED OUT ON THE GROUND  
BECAUSE MY PEOPLE ARE DESTROYED,  
BECAUSE CHILDREN AND INFANTS FAINT  
IN THE STREETS OF THE CITY. (2:11)

# EARLIER PROPHECIES FULFILLED

THE LORD HAS DONE WHAT HE PLANNED;  
HE HAS FULFILLED HIS WORD,  
WHICH HE DECREED LONG AGO.

HE HAS OVERTHROWN YOU WITHOUT PITY,  
HE HAS LET THE ENEMY GLOAT OVER YOU,  
HE HAS EXALTED THE HORN OF YOUR FOES.

(2:17)

# JEREMIAH - A TRUE PROPHET

THE VISIONS OF YOUR PROPHETS  
WERE FALSE AND WORTHLESS;  
THEY DID NOT EXPOSE YOUR SIN  
TO WARD OFF YOUR CAPTIVITY.  
THE PROPHECIES THEY GAVE YOU  
WERE FALSE AND MISLEADING.

(2:14)

# URGED GOD'S PEOPLE TO REPENT & CRY OUT TO HIM

ARISE, CRY OUT IN THE NIGHT,  
AS THE WATCHES OF THE NIGHT BEGIN;  
POUR OUT YOUR HEART LIKE WATER  
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD.  
LIFT UP YOUR HANDS TO HIM  
FOR THE LIVES OF YOUR CHILDREN,  
WHO FAINT FROM HUNGER  
AT EVERY STREET CORNER. (2:19)

# WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED ?

- ❑ SINFUL FALLEN STATE OF OUR WORLD AT THE ROOT OF SUFFERING & PAIN
- ❑ “WHAT I DO IS MY RIGHT, AND NO ONE ELSE’S BUSINESS!”; LAMENTATIONS SHOWS VIVIDLY HOW ONE’S SIN CAN SPILL OVER TO OTHERS

# WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED ?

- ❑ PAIN: MOST EFFECTIVE TEACHER; TURNS OUR HEART TOWARD GOD'S PERSPECTIVE
- ❑ WHEN "BOTTOM DROPS OUT", WE CAN RESPOND WITH FEAR, ANGER, DESPAIR, APATHY ... OR WE CAN CHOOSE TO LAMENT
- ❑ LAMENT LONGS FOR THE DAY WHEN THERE WILL BE NO MORE LAMENT IN THE NEW JERUSALEM (REV. 21)