English: Unlocked Literal Bible for Lamentations

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## Lamentations

11The city that once was full of people is now sitting all alone.She has become like a widow, though she was a mighty nation.She was a princess among the nations, but is now forced into slavery.

2She weeps bitterly in the night, and her tears cover her cheeks.None of her lovers comfort her.All her friends have betrayed her. They have become her enemies.

3Judah has gone into exile after affliction and great labor.She lives among the nations and finds no rest.All her pursuers overtook her in her desperation.

4The roads of Zion mourn because none come to the appointed feasts.All her gates are desolate. Her priests groan.Her virgins are afflicted, and as for her, it is bitter for her.

5Her adversaries have become her master; her enemies prosper.Yahweh has afflicted her for her many sins.Her little children go into captivity to her adversary.

6Splendor has left the daughter of Zion.Her princes have become like deer that cannot find pasture,and they go without strength before their pursuer.

7In the days of her affliction and her homelessness, Jerusalem will call to mind all her precious treasures that she had in former days.When her people fell into the hand of the adversary, no one helped her.The adversaries saw her and mocked at her destruction.

8Jerusalem sinned greatly, therefore, she has become scorned as something that is filthy.All who honored her now despise her since they have seen her nakedness.She groans and tries to turn away.

9She has become unclean beneath her skirts. She did not think about her future.Her fall was astonishing. There was no one to comfort her.She cried out, "Look at my affliction, Yahweh, for the enemy has become too great!"

10The adversary has put his hand on all our precious treasures.She has seen the nations enter her sanctuary,even though you had commanded that they must not enter into your assembly place.

11All her people groan as they search for bread.They have given their precious treasures for food to restore their lives.Look, Yahweh, and consider me, for I have become worthless.

12Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?Look and see if there is anyone else's sorrow like the sorrow that is being inflicted on me,since Yahweh has tormented me on the day of his fierce anger.

13It is from on high that he has sent fire into my bones, and it has conquered them.He has spread a net for my feet and turned me back.He has made me constantly desolate and weak.

14The yoke of my transgressions is bound together by his hand.They are knit together and placed upon my neck. He has made my strength fail.The Lord has given me over into their hands, and I am not able to stand.

15The Lord has tossed aside all my mighty men who defended me.He has called an assembly against me to crush my vigorous men.The Lord has trampled the virgin daughter of Judah in the winepress.

16For these things I weep, my eyes overflow with tears;for a comforter is far from me, one who restores my life.My children are desolate because the enemy has conquered me.

17Zion has spread her hands wide; there is none to comfort her.Yahweh has commanded that those around Jacob should be his adversaries.Jerusalem is something unclean to them.

18Yahweh is righteous, for I have rebelled against his commandment.Hear, all you peoples, and see my sorrow.My virgins and my vigorous men have gone into captivity.

19I called for my lovers, but they were treacherous toward me.My priests and my elders perished in the city,while they sought food to restore their lives.

20Look, Yahweh, for I am in distress; my stomach churns,my heart is disturbed within me, for I have been very rebellious.Outside, the sword bereaves; inside the house there is only death.

21They have heard my groaning, but there is no one to comfort me.All my enemies have heard of my trouble, and they are glad that you have done it.You have brought the day you proclaimed; now let them become like me.

22Let all their wickedness come before you.deal with them as you have dealt with me because of all my transgressions.My groans are many and my heart is faint.

21The Lord has covered the daughter of Zion under the cloud of his anger.He has thrown the splendor of Israel down from heaven to earth.He has not remembered his footstool on the day of his anger.

2The Lord has swallowed up and has had no compassion on all the towns of Jacob.In the days of his anger he has thrown down the fortified cities of the daughter of Judah;in dishonor he has brought down to the ground the kingdom and its rulers.

3With fierce anger he has cut off every horn of Israel.He has withdrawn his right hand from before the enemy.He has burned up Jacob like a blazing fire that devours everything around it.

4He has bent his bow toward us like an enemy,he has set his right hand like an adversary.He has slaughtered all who had been so pleasing to him in the tent of the daughter of Zion;he has poured out his wrath like fire.

5The Lord has become like an enemy. He has swallowed up Israel.He has swallowed up all her palaces. He has destroyed her strongholds.He has increased mourning and lamentation within the daughter of Judah.

6He has done violence to his tabernacle like a garden. He has destroyed the place of the solemn assembly.Yahweh has caused both solemn assembly and Sabbath to be forgotten in Zion,for he has despised both king and priest in the indignation of his anger.

7The Lord has rejected his altar and disowned his sanctuary.He has given over the walls of her palaces into the hand of the enemy.They have raised a shout in the house of Yahweh, as on the day of an appointed feast.

8Yahweh decided to destroy the city wall of the daughter of Zion.He has stretched out the measuring line and has not withheld his hand from destroying the wall.He has made the ramparts and wall to lament; together they wasted away.

9Her gates have sunk into the ground; he has destroyed and broken the bars of her gate.Her king and her princes are among the nations, the law is no moreand her prophets find no vision from Yahweh.

10The elders of the daughter of Zion sit on the ground in silence.They have thrown dust on their heads and girded themselves with sackcloth.The virgins of Jerusalem have bowed their heads to the ground.

11My eyes have failed from their tears; my stomach churns;my inner parts are poured out to the ground because of the destruction of the daughter of my people;children and infants faint in the streets of the city.

12They say to their mothers, "Where is grain and wine?"as they faint like a wounded man in the streets of the city,their lives are poured out on the bosom of their mothers.

13What will I testify for you? To what can I compare you, daughter of Jerusalem?To what can I liken you, that I may comfort you, virgin daughter of Zion?Your wound is as great as the sea. Who can heal you?

14Your prophets have seen false and worthless visions for you.They have not exposed your iniquity to reverse your captivity,but for you they gave utterances that are false and misleading.

15All those who pass along the road clap their hands at you.They hiss and shake their heads against the daughter of Jerusalem and say,"Is this the city that they called 'The Perfection of Beauty,' 'The Joy for All of Earth'?"

16All your enemies open their mouths against you.They sneer and grind their teeth in rage and say, "We have swallowed her up!This is the day we have waited for! We have lived to see it!"

17Yahweh has done what he planned to do. He has fulfilled his word,which he commanded in former days.He has overthrown you without pity,for he has permitted the enemy to rejoice over you; he has lifted up the horn of your enemies.

18Their heart cried out to the Lord,walls of the daughter of Zion! Make your tears flow down like a river day and night.Give yourself no relief, your eyes no relief.

19Arise, cry out in the night, at the beginning of the night watches!Pour out your heart like water before the face of the Lord.Lift up your hands to him for the lives of your children who faint with hunger at the corner of every street."

20See, Yahweh, and consider those you have dealt in this way.Should women eat the fruit of their wombs, the children whom they have cared for?Should priest and prophet be slaughtered in the sanctuary of the Lord?

21Both the young and the old lie on the dust of the streets.My virgins and my young men have fallen by the sword;you have slaughtered them in the day of your anger without taking pity on them.

22You have summoned, as you would call the people to a feast day, my terrors on every side, on the day of the anger of Yahweh no one escaped or survived;those I cared for and raised,my enemy has destroyed.

31I am a man who has seen affliction under the rod of Yahweh's fury.2He drove me away and caused me to walk in darkness rather than light.

3Surely he turned his hand against me again and again, the whole day long.4He made my flesh and my skin waste away; he broke my bones.

5He built up siege works against me, and surrounded me with bitterness and hardship.6He made me live in dark places, like those who died long ago.

7He built a wall around me and I cannot escape. He made my chains heavy8and though I call out and cry for help, he shut out my prayer.

9He blocked my path with a wall of hewn stone; he made my paths crooked.10He is like a bear waiting to ambush me, a lion in hiding;

11he turned aside my paths, he has made me desolate.12He bent his bow and set me as a target for his arrow.

13He pierced my kidneys with the arrows of his quiver.14I became a laughingstock to all my people, their taunting song all day long.

15He filled me with bitter herbs and forced me to drink wormwood.16He has made my teeth grind with gravel, and he made me cower in the ashes.

17My soul is deprived of peace; I have forgotten what prosperity is.18So I say, "My endurance has perished and so has my hope in Yahweh."

19Remember my affliction and my wanderings, the wormwood and bitterness.20I continually remember it and my soul is bowed down within me.

21But I call this to mind and therefore I have hope:22The steadfast love of Yahweh never ceases and his compassions never end,

23they are new every morning; your faithfulness is great.24"Yahweh is my inheritance," says my soul, therefore I will hope in him.

25Yahweh is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.26It is good to wait silently for the salvation of Yahweh.

27It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.28Let him sit alone in silence, when it is laid upon him.

29Let him put his mouth in the dust—there may yet be hope.30Let him offer his cheek to the one who strikes him, and let him be filled to the full with insults.

31For the Lord will not reject us forever,32but though he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

33For he does not afflict from his heart or torment the children of mankind.34To crush underfoot all the prisoners of the earth,

35to deny a man justice in the presence of the Most High,36to deprive a person of justice in his lawsuit—the Lord would not approve such things!

37Who has spoken and it came to pass, unless the Lord decreed it?38Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that both calamities and the good come?

39How can any person alive complain? How can a person complain about the punishment for his sins?40Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to Yahweh.

41Let us lift up our hearts and our hands to God in the heavens:42"We have transgressed and rebelled, and you have not forgiven.

43You have covered yourself with anger and pursued us, you have killed and you have not spared.44You have covered yourself with a cloud so that no prayer can pass through.

45You have made us like filthy scum and refuse among the peoples.46All our enemies curse us,

47panic and pitfall have come upon us, ruin and destruction.48My eyes flow with streams of tears because of the destruction my people.

49My eyes will shed tears without ceasing, without relief,50until Yahweh from heaven looks down and sees.

51My eyes cause grief to my soul because of all the daughters of my city.52I have been hunted like a bird by those who were my enemies; they hunted me without a reason.

53They cut off my life in the pit, and they threw a stone on me,54and they caused waters to overflow, covering my head. I said, 'I have been cut off!'

55I called on your name, Yahweh, from the depths of the pit.56You heard my voice when I said, 'Do not close your ear to my cry for help.'

57You came near on the day I called on you; you said, 'Do not fear.'58Lord, you defended my soul's case, you redeemed my life!

59Yahweh, you have seen the wrong they have done to me; judge my case.60You have seen all their vengeance, all their plots against me.

61You have heard their insults, Yahweh, and all their plots against me.62The lips and the meditations of my enemies come against me all the day.

63Look at how they sit and then rise up; they mock me with their songs.64Pay back to them what they deserve, Yahweh, according to the deeds of their hands.

65You will let their hearts be shameless! May your condemnation be upon them!66You pursue them in anger and destroy them from under the heavens, Yahweh!"

41The gold has become tarnished; how the purest gold has changed!The holy stones are scattered at the corner of every street.

2The precious sons of Zion were worth their weight in pure gold,but now they are considered like clay jars, the work of the potter's hands!

3Even the jackals offer the breast to nurse their cubs, but the daughter of my people has become cruel, like the ostriches in the desert.

4The tongue of the nursing baby sticks to the roof of his mouth by thirst;the children ask for food, but there is none for them.

5Those who used to eat delicacies are now desolate in the streets.Those who were brought up wearing scarlet clothing now lie on piles of ashes.

6The iniquity of the daughter of my people is greater than the sin of Sodom,which was overthrown in a moment and no hands were wrung for her.

7Her princes were purer than snow, whiter than milk;their bodies were more ruddy than coral, their form was like sapphire.

8Their appearance now is darker than soot;they are not recognized in the streets.Their skin has shriveled on their bones;it has become as dry as wood.

9Those killed by the sword are better than those killed by hunger,who wasted away, pierced by the lack of any harvest from the field.

10The hands of compassionate women have boiled their own children;they became their food during the timewhen the daughter of my people was being destroyed.

11Yahweh showed all his wrath; he poured out his fierce anger.He kindled a fire in Zion that consumed her foundations.

12The kings of the earth did not believe,nor did any of the inhabitants of the world believe,that adversary or enemy could enter the gates of Jerusalem.

13This happened because of the sins of her prophets and the iniquities of her priestswho have shed the blood of the righteous in her midst.

14They wandered, blind, through the streets.They were so defiled by that blood that no one could touch their clothes.

15"Away! Unclean!" people cried at them. "Away! Away! Do not touch!"So they wandered about; people said among the nations, "They can stay here no longer."

16Yahweh himself scattered them; he does not watch over them anymore.They did not honor the priests,and they did not show favor to the elders.

17Our eyes failed, looking in vain for help;from our watchtowers we watchedfor a nation that could not rescue us.

18They followed our steps,we could not walk in our streets.Our end was near and our days were numbered,our end had come.

19Our pursuers were swifter than the eagles in the sky.They chased us to the mountains and lay in wait for us in the wilderness.

20The breath in our nostrils—Yahweh's anointed one—he was the one who was captured in their pits;of whom it was said, "Under his shadow we will live among the nations."

21Rejoice and be glad, daughter of Edom,you who live in the land of Uz.But to you also the cup will be passed;you will be drunk and strip yourself naked.

22Daughter of Zion, your punishment will come to an end;he will not extend your exile.But daughter of Edom, he will punish your iniquity;he will uncover your sins.

51Remember, Yahweh, what has happened to us;look and see our disgrace.2Our inheritance has been turned over to strangers;our houses to foreigners.3We have become orphans, without a father,and our mothers are like widows.4We must pay silver for the water we drink,and we must pay silver to get our own wood.

5Those who are coming after us are close behind us;we are weary and we can find no rest.6We have given ourselves to Egypt and to Assyriato get enough food.

7Our fathers sinned, and they are no more,and we bear their iniquities.8Slaves rule over us,and there is no one to deliver us from their hand.

9We get our bread only by risking our lives,because of the sword in the wilderness.10Our skin has grown as hot as an ovenbecause of the burning heat of hunger.

11Women are raped in Zion,and virgins in the cities of Judah.12Princes are hung up by their own hands,and no honor is shown to the elders.

13Young men are forced to grind grain with a millstone,and boys stagger under heavy loads of wood.14The elders have left the city gate,and the young men have left their music.

15The joy of our heart has ceasedand our dancing has turned into mourning.16The crown has fallen from our head;woe to us, for we have sinned!

17For this our heart has become sick,for these things our eyes grow dim18for Mount Zion lies desolate, with jackals prowling over it.

19But you, Yahweh, reign forever,and you will sit upon your throne from generation to generation.20Why do you forget us forever?Why do you abandon us for the length of your days?

21Restore us to yourself, Yahweh, and we will be restored.Renew our days as they were long ago—22unless you have utterly rejected usand you are angry with us beyond measure.