



The Lamentations of Jeremiah

Lamenting the Condemnation

Lamentations 2:1-22

- I. THE JUDGE (Lamentations 2:1-9)
 - A. His Destruction of the Secular (Lamentations 2:1-5)
 1. The conditions of His destruction (Lamentations 2:1-3)
 - a. The daughter of Zion was covered with a cloud (Lamentations 2:1; see Ezekiel 30:18; Ezekiel 32:7-8). Note: The picture is clear: God was obscured from Israel and Israel would be seemingly obscured from God.
 - (1) By the Lord
 - (2) In His anger (Lamentations 3:43)
 - b. The beauty of Israel (likely speaking of Jerusalem—see Lamentations 2:15; Psalm 48:2) was cast down (Lamentations 2:1).
 - (1) By the Lord
 - (2) From heaven unto the earth
 - c. The footstool (likely speaking of the ark or the house containing the ark—see 1 Chronicles 28:2; Psalm 99:5; Psalm 132:7) was not remembered (Lamentations 2:1).
 - (1) By the Lord
 - (2) In the day of His anger
 - d. The habitations of Jacob were swallowed up (Lamentations 2:2).
 - (1) By the Lord
 - (2) Without pity
 - a) Pity defined
 - i) By the dictionaries
 - (a) *Webster's 1828*—"The feeling or suffering of one person, excited by the distresses of another . . ."
 - (b) *Etymonline.com*—"mercy, compassion, care, tenderness"
 - ii) By the scriptures
 - (a) Most often defined by its absence or removal (Deuteronomy 7:16; Deuteronomy 13:8; Amos 1:11; Isaiah 13:18; Jeremiah 13:14; Lamentations 2:17; Lamentations 3:43; Ezekiel 8:18)
 - (b) General observations
 - (i) Sparing one from judgment because of their cries for mercy
 - (ii) The moving of one's heart in mercy cancelling premeditated acts of judgment or wrath



- b) Pity implemented with Israel
 - i) Israel's beginnings
 - (a) Nobody pitied her at birth (Ezekiel 16:1-5).
 - (b) The Lord called her to life (Ezekiel 16:6).
 - ii) Israel's troubled times
 - (a) They became an evil people, refusing to hear God's word (Jeremiah 13:10).
 - (b) The Lord promised "to dash them one against another, even the fathers and the sons together" (Jeremiah 13:14).
 - (c) He promised not to pity, nor spare, nor have mercy, but destroy them (Jeremiah 13:14).
 - (d) In Jeremiah's lamentations, he lamented the Lord's fulfillment of such promises (Lamentations 2:2, 17, 21; Lamentations 3:43).
 - iii) Israel's future pity
 - (a) However, the LORD has promised a time when He will "be jealous for his land, and pity his people" (Joel 2:18).
 - (b) In fact, He has promised in His pity to redeem them (Isaiah 63:9).
 - (c) Though Israel entered into a covenant with the LORD, He has pronounced evil against them because of their evil toward Him. When they seek Him during the time of Jacob's trouble, He will come to their defence.
- c) Pity missing with the church
 - i) The Lord's New Testament usage of pity
 - (a) Once in a parable given to the Jews (Matthew 18:33)
 - (b) Once to remind the Jews of God's pity with Job (James 5:11)
 - (c) And once as an admonition from one believer to another (1 Peter 3:8)
 - ii) Why is pity missing?
 - (a) I find it sneakily suspicious that the Lord never once suggests that He demonstrates pity toward the church.
 - (b) But then I'm reminded that pity is given to those who are appointed to wrath, which we are not (1 Thessalonians 5:9). In fact, since salvation, God sees me in the righteousness of His Son. I need not His pity, I have His righteousness.
- e. The strong holds of Judah were thrown down or brought down to the ground (Lamentations 2:2).
 - (1) By the Lord
 - (2) In His wrath