



The Lamentations of Jeremiah

Lamenting the Consequences

Lamentations 4:1-22

- I. THE EXECUTION OF GOD'S JUDGMENT (Lamentations 4:1-12)
 - A. The Devaluation of the Nation (Lamentations 4:1-2)
 1. The devaluation of the place (Lamentations 4:1)
 - a. The surprise of the devaluation
 - (1) How is the gold become dim!
 - (2) How is the most fine gold changed!
 - (3) Note: These are not questions. Instead, they are exclamatory statements demonstrating awe or surprise.
 - b. The explanation of the devaluation
 - (1) The stones of the sanctuary
 - (2) Are poured out in the top of every street
 2. The devaluation of the people (Lamentations 4:2)
 - a. The subject—the precious sons of Zion
 - b. The devalue
 - (1) The sons were comparable to fine gold.
 - (2) Now, they were esteemed as earthen pictures.
 - B. The Cruelty of the People (Lamentations 4:3-5)
 1. The kindness of common nature (Lamentations 4:3)
 - a. Even the sea monsters draw out the breast.
 - b. They give suck to their young ones.
 2. The comparison of the present condition (Lamentations 4:3)
 - a. The daughter of my people is become cruel.
 - b. Like the ostriches in the wilderness; Note: Consider the motherhood of the ostrich (Job 39:13-18).
 - (1) According to Job 12:7-8, man should listen to the creation in order to learn some lessons about life and the Lord.
 - (2) She lacks wisdom (Job 39:17, 14-15).
 - a) She leaves her eggs in the earth (Job 39:14).
 - i) She puts them in the earth.
 - (a) The pit can be around 2 feet deep and 10 feet wide.
 - (b) She often puts her eggs in a nest with other eggs and leaves them there.
 - ii) She warms them in the dust. Fewer than 10% survive.
 - b) She forgets the possible dangers (Job 39:15).
 - i) Dangers caused by her; her foot may crush them.
 - ii) Dangers caused by others; beasts may break them.



- (3) She is hardened (Job 39:16).
 - a) She lacks affection.
 - b) She treats them as though they are foreign.
 - i) She might place them in a nest with other eggs.
 - ii) She refuses to care for them (Lamentations 4:3-4).
 - iii) She leaves them to care for themselves.
 - (a) One researcher said, “upon the least distant noise, or trivial occasion, she forsakes her eggs or her young ones, to which perhaps she never returns...”
 - (b) Another researcher said, “Solitary eggs are thus found lying forsaken all over the country, and become a prey to the jackal.”
 - c) She first takes care of herself.
 - i) She will hide herself by blending in with the earth.
 - ii) She will leave her eggs if she feels threatened.
 - d) She labours, but to no avail.
 - (4) She squanders her potential.
 - a) She has weaknesses.
 - i) She lacks wisdom and understanding.
 - ii) Her feathers and wings do not allow her to fly.
 - b) She allows strength to become weakness.
 - i) She can see enemies coming from a good distance.
 - (a) She stands tall.
 - (b) Her eyes can see predators at a great distance.
 - (c) Her eyes are shaded from the sunlight.
 - ii) She is able to hide from the predators by lying flat on the earth and making her body look like the earth.
 - iii) She is able to outrun (she runs up to 43 mph) the majority of her predators.
 - (5) Some men did research while hunting the ostrich. They observed the path of the ostrich and as they moved in to capture the ostrich, they noted that the ostrich could have easily escaped had it changed courses, but the ostrich “never swerves from the course he once adopts, but only increases speed.”
3. The explanation of the present condition (Lamentations 4:4)
 - a. The infant—the tongue of the sucking child cleaveth to the roof of the mouth for thirst.
 - b. The toddler—the young children ask bread, and no man breaketh it unto them.
 4. The change in conditions (Lamentations 4:5)
 - a. Food
 - (1) They had been feeding delicately.
 - (2) Now, they were desolate in the streets.
 - b. Raiment
 - (1) They were brought up in scarlet.
 - (2) Now, they embraced dunghills.



C. The Comparison of the Judgment (Lamentations 4:6-10)

1. The comparison explained (Lamentations 4:6)
 - a. The people compared
 - (1) The daughter of my people
 - (2) Sodom
 - b. The object compared
 - (1) The punishment of the iniquity of the daughter of my people
 - (2) The punishment of the sin of Sodom
 - c. The details compared
 - (1) Israel's punishment is GREATER than Sodom's punishment.
 - (2) Sodom had been overthrown.
 - a) As in a moment
 - b) And no hands stayed on her
 - (3) Israel lived to deal with the ongoing judgment of God.
2. The conditions examined (Lamentations 4:7-10)
 - a. Among the Nazarites (Lamentations 4:7-9)
 - (1) Their past (Lamentations 4:7)
 - a) They **were** purer than snow.
 - b) They **were** whiter than milk.
 - c) They **were** more ruddy in body than rubies.
 - d) Their polishing **was** of sapphire.
 - (2) Their present (Lamentations 4:8-9)
 - a) Their visage **is** blacker than a coal (Lamentations 4:8).
 - b) They **are** not known in the streets (Lamentations 4:8).
 - c) Their skin **cleaveth** to their bones (Lamentations 4:8).
 - i) It **is** withered.
 - ii) It **is** become like a stick.
 - d) They pine away (Lamentations 4:9).
 - b. Among the women (Lamentations 4:10)
 - (1) Their past—"pitiful women"
 - (2) Their present
 - a) They have sodden (boiled in water) their own children.
 - b) Their children were their meat.

D. The Accomplishment of the Judgment (Lamentations 4:11-12)

1. The unveiling of the judgment (Lamentations 4:11)
 - a. The LORD hath accomplished His fury.
 - b. He hath poured out His fierce anger.
 - c. He hath kindled a fire in Zion, and it hath devoured the foundations.
2. The surprise of the judgment (Lamentations 4:12)
 - a. The people surprised
 - (1) The kings of the earth
 - (2) The inhabitants of the world
 - b. The object causing surprise—"the adversary and the enemy" entering "the gates of Jerusalem"